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Description

Dual Flush Water Saving Toilet System

BACKGROUND OF INVENTION

[0001] This invention generally relates to a water-saving dual flush toilet system. More specifically, this invention relates to the efficient use of water in the holding tank of the toilet to selectively flush fluid or solid human wastes into sewers, septic tanks, or other sewage treatment system.

[0002] Water is in short supply in many places around the world. As population grows, the water usage increases accordingly. In the past numerous efforts have been made to conserve water usage including efforts to reduce the amount of water to flush toilets. Some of the inventions employ devices with two discharge openings: one is located above the other to use different volumes of water in the toilet tank to flush solid waste or liquid waste in the toilet bowl. Such approach has disadvantages. During the flushing as the water level lowers to the bottom of the toilet water tank the water pressure becomes lower. With lower water pressure, the flushing of the wastes can be

less effective. Hence, either a large volume of water is needed to complete the flushing or multiple flushes are required to achieve satisfactory flushing results. As a result, excessive amount of water is consumed to flush the toilet.

[0003] To solve this problem, a dual flushing toilet system has been invented with selectively activating the toilet flushing mechanism to consume proper volume of water to flush the solid waste or the liquid waste while maintaining a highest possible water pressure during the flush operation. The water level in the toilet water tank stays above the discharge opening before the flush valve drops down and seals the discharge opening of the dual flush toilet. To flush the solid waste, a regular volume of water is used; to flush the liquid waste, a smaller volume of water is used.

[0004] At present two types of flush valves are widely used in various toilet systems. One type of flush valve is a plunger-shaped valve with a floating chamber at the bottom and a tubular portion on the upper portion of the flush valve. The tubular potion acts as an overflow pipe to drain the water into the toilet in case the inlet valve malfunctions. The bottom flange of the flush valve is seated

against the discharge opening. This type of flush valve integrates the float chamber and the overflow pipe into one unit. It can generally slidably move upwardly and downwardly with the guidance of a spud secured on the discharge opening of the toilet water tank. A flush lever is used to activate the valve to move upwardly to open the discharge opening. When the flush valve is in the open position, the water in the toilet tank is discharged into the toilet bowl to flush the waste. As the level of the water in the tank lowers, the bottom of the flush valve becomes closer to the discharge opening and the buoyancy from the chamber of the flush valve becomes less. Hence, when the weight of the flush valve becomes greater than the buoyancy of the chamber of the flush valve, the flush valve drops down and closes the discharge opening. As the water inside the water tank drops, a float inside the water tank activates a water inlet valve to permit the water to flow into the toilet tank and refill the water. When the water level inside the water tank reaches the predetermined level, the float deactivates the water inlet valve to shut the water off.

[0005] Another type of flush valve has a generally hemisphere-shaped flapper valve body with a chamber in the lower

portion. The flapper valve can pivotally rotate about a horizontal axis of a frame mounted primarily on the bottom portion of a vertical overflow pipe. A flush lever controls the hemisphere-shaped flush valve. The flush lever lifts the flush valve up, opens the water discharge opening, and permits the water from the toilet tank to flow into the toilet bowl to flush the wastes. The flush valve closes when the gravity of the valve is greater than the buoyancy of the flapper valve as the water level in the water tank lowers. The refill process is the same as the one described above.

[0006] It is generally recognized that vast majority of the dual action water saving toilet devices are developed around the hemisphere-shaped flush valves that employ two discharge openings. The volumes of water discharged through these two discharge openings are different because the two discharge openings are located at different elevations inside the toilet tank. However, there are three major disadvantages of these devices. First, each discharge opening permits the water above the discharge opening to be discharge into the toilet bowl. For different sizes of the toilet tank, their surface areas are different. This makes the volume of water consumed vary greatly.

Second, dual flush toilets require a user to push, hold, and then release the flush handle. This operation requirement is inconvenient to the user. It is very difficult to control the timing to hold the flush handle. If the user holds the lever handle too long, excessive amount of water is used to flush the toilet; if the user releases the lever handle too soon, insufficient amount of water is used to flush the waste. As a result, multiple flushes may occur. Third, some of the mechanisms employed to control the dual flush operations are so complicated that they are expensive to manufacture, difficult to install, and inflexible to accommodate the various toilet tanks to achieve effective flushing results.

[0007] Very few efforts have been made for a dual flush toilet for the plunger-shaped flush valve toilet system in which the overflow pipe and the float chamber are integrated as one unit, because it is more difficult to develop a device to perform the dual flush functions than the hemisphere-shaped flash valve.

[0008] US Patent No. 6,317,899 to Brewer discloses a dual flush water conservation toilet including separate filling tanks in the toilet. A user can selectively empty different tanks to flush the solid or liquid waste. However, such approach to

empting the whole tank of water cannot employ the water pressure to flush the waste effectively. It is also complex to manufacture and difficult to make adjustments.

[0009] One approach to achieving selective flushing is to place two separate flushing valves and on two discharge openings at different elevations. US Patent No. 4,069,591 to Awis, US Patent No. 4,172,299 to Pozo, US Patent No. 4,175,295 to Cameron, US Patent No. 4,504,984 to Burns, US Patent No. 5,042,096 to Bolli, US Patent No. 5,067,180 to Figeroid, US Patent No. 5,887,292 to Goren, US Patent No. 5,813,059 to Wang, US Patent No. 6,041,452 to Hsiao, and US Patent No. 6,571,400 to Reid, primarily employ two discharge openings in the water tank. Different activating mechanisms are employed to activate each valve to control the volume of water discharging through the discharge opening into the toilet bowl to flush the waste. Each invention uses a different activating mechanism to control the flash valves. However, all the inventions have some disadvantages. First, they are too complicated to manufacture. Second, water pressure drops down to almost zero when the water level lowers to the discharge openings. The lower water pressure makes the toilet flushing less effective.

[0010] Another type of invention for the dual flush toilet requires a user to hold the lever handle to control the amount of water used to flush the waste.

[0011] US Patent No. 4,837,867 to Miller shows a dual toilet flush system. This system employs one flap valve to control the volume of water to be used to flush the toilet. However, the user must hold the handle to keep the flush valve partially open to determine the time to flush the toilet. This operation requires that the user determine the flushing time, which makes it difficult to control the proper volume of water to flush the waste. It is also inconvenient for a user to hold the lever handle.

[0012] US Patent No. 5,073,995 to Jennison discloses a water saving device for flushing tank including a floating body mounted on a standpipe of the tank. The floating body can move upwardly or downwardly to forcibly contact the flushing valve. The weight of the floating body can be adjusted. This device can close the flushing valve before the water level reach the point that the gravity of the valve is greater than the buoyancy from the water to cause the valve to close down. However, there is no function to selectively control the water level. With the variations of the toilet tanks, such device cannot be adjusted to fit different

toilet tanks.

[0013] US Patent No. 5,105,480 to Howell discloses a device that a pivoting cup is mounted on the toilet flap valve. Two flexible actuating elements control the position of the cup. A full flush or a partial flush can be achieved by controlling the orientation of a cup above the flush valve. However, the device is complicated and the pivoting cap is an extra element. Various factors such as precisely maintaining the positions of the parts can affect the functionality of the device.

[0014] US Patent No. 5,129,110 to Richter uses one flushing valve to achieve the selectable flushing function. This device needs a user to hold the flushing lever handle to control the time of flushing. Such operation varies greatly from different users. If a user cannot properly control the timing, either excessive water is used to flush the waste or insufficient water is discharged into the toilet bowl. In the later case, a second flush may be needed to obtain a satisfactory flushing result.

[0015] US Patent No. 5,191,662 to Sharrow discloses a device that is similar to US Patent No. 5,129,110. It also requires a user to hold down the flush handle to control the amount of water to flush.

[0016] US patent No. 5,289,594 to Wiewiorowski discloses a toilet flush control system. This toilet flush control system provides a control over the volume of water used in conventional tank toilets. The disclosed toilet flush control apparatus and method can be used in existing toilets by easily retrofitting such toilets with said apparatus. The toilet flush control apparatus may also be incorporated into the design of new toilets. The apparatus comprises a flapper-type flush valve which by itself does not have adequate buoyancy to remain open during the flush cycle of a toilet and which is equipped with an eyelet member; a buoyant member capable of imparting the needed buoyancy to the valve during the flush cycle; a flexible line connected at one end to the buoyant member and passing through said eyelet, and mechanism for adjusting the vertical distance between the flush valve and the buoyant member from outside the toilet tank. The volume of water saved during flushing is equivalent to the volume of water between the level of the flush valve and the level of the buoyant member. However, this system cannot be easily operated and the buoyancy member can only be adjusted one at time. This toilet flushing system cannot selectively adjust the volume of water for flushing different wastes.

[0017] US Patent No. 5,319,809 to Testa shows a single valve dual module toilet flush system. However, this system needs a user to press the handle and hold and then release it to control the volume of water to be used. It is very difficult for a user to determine the duration of flushing the waste.

[0018] US Patent No. 5,855,025 to Williams discloses a single valve controlled toilet system. A water saver is inserted in place of a tube touted from the water inlet valve assembly to the overflow pipe. The pressured water is used to aid gravity to the valve in closing the flapper valve to seal the flush valve. However, the adjustment of the device is complicated and the adjustment is not convenient.

[0019] US Patent No. 5,996,135 to Hsieh discloses single valve controlled water saving toilet system. It employs a pull cord and a handle to control the volume of water used to flush the toilet. However, a user has to pull the cord to control the smaller amount of water to flush the toilet. The user has to decide how long to hold and release the pull cord. It is not convenient for a user to precisely control the proper amount of time to effectively complete the flushing task.

[0020] US Patent No. 5,031,254 to Rise discloses a toilet system

to control the volume of water to flush the toilet. This toile flushing system employs a hollow valve with one opening at the bottom with a floating chamber to control the time for the valve to stay open. This system is complicated to manufacturing and difficult to assemble.

[0021] US Patent No. 5,966,749 to Goesling shows an adjustable toilet flush valve. This system has multiple holes on the Valve. The flush volume can be controlled by rotating the position of the valve to change the positions of the hole to control the time for the valve to stay open. However, this device does not have dual flush capability and cannot selectively to flush the different wastes once its position is set.

[0022] US Patent No. 6,151,724 to Klingenstein shows a single flap valve toilet system. It employs a floating ball to aid to close the valve before the water in the water tank drains to the bottom. This system does not have convenient adjusting functions to accommodate different toilet tanks.

[0023] US Patent No. 6,467,100 to Leach shows a water conservative toilet system that employs one single valve and a dual action handle to perform the flushing. Again, this system needs a user to determine when to release the handle. That requirement is inconvenient and can result in

under flush if releasing the lever handle too soon or over flush if holding the lever handle too long.

[0024] US Patent Publication No. US 2002/0133868 A1 to Comparettishows a water-saving flap valve. It has a bleeder valve in the system. This system can perform a partial flush by tapping the flush handle. The disadvantage for this toilet system is that it is more difficult to control how long a user has to hold the flush handle.

[0025] US Patent Publication No. US 2002/0157177 A1 to Sakura discloses a water-saving toilet flushing system. This system uses two tanks and two flap valves flushing system to control the volume of water. This system is expensive to manufacture. It is difficult to retrofit to existing toilet tank.

[0026] US Patent Publication No. US 2003/0110555A1 to Tate discloses a dual action toilet flush mechanism. This toilet system has a drain shutter adapted for enabling and disabling the draining device; a water level sensor providing a shutter closer adapted for closing the drain shutter at a selectively adjustable low water level; a device for disabling water filing at a selected high water level; and a lever and chain arrangement for opening the drain shutter thereby enabling draining of the tank. That mechanism

needs an operator to hold the flush lever to perform a full flush cycle, which is not convenient to operate. It is also complicated to enable and disable the draining device.

[0027] US Patent Publication No. US 2001/0042265 to Han discloses a dual action toilet flush mechanism that can perform the dual flush operations. However, this system is extremely complex. It is expensive to manufacture and difficult to function properly.

[0028] US Patent Publication No. US 2002/0148037 to Bellmore, US 2003/0014810 to Jarosinski, and US 2003/0028958 to Hand, and US 2003/0074727 to Hand, disclose a type of dual action toilet flush mechanism that can perform the dual flush operations. This system uses two flush handles and two discharge openings. They also have the low water pressure problem and inflexible to adapt to different toilet tanks.

[0029] German Patent No. DE315621 and DE3153688 to Hubatka Alex show a dual flush toilet system. However, this system is complex and expensive to manufacturer and install.

[0030] In summary, the previous inventions of the dual flush toilet system employ complicated mechanisms resulting in high cost of manufacturing of the components, difficult to install, or inflexible to retrofit existing toilets. Another

major disadvantage of the prior inventions is that the selective flushing system requires a user to hold the flush handle to complete a flushing cycle. Such requirement can result in over flushing or under flushing, which leads to consuming more water. As a result, more water is used because of such ineffectiveness.

SUMMARY OF INVENTION

[0031] This invention relates to a dual flush toilet system that provides means of achieving a full or partial flushing operation with current used toilet systems equipped with plunger-shaped flush valves, or hemisphere-shaped flush valves. A flush lever that can activate dual flush operations is also invented to use existing toilet system. Moreover, an electrical mechanical controlled toilet flush system is developed to make the dual flush water saving toilet system simpler and more reliable.

[0032] The principle object of this invention is to develop a toilet system with simple mechanisms, cheap to manufacturer, easy to assemble, flexible to retrofit most of the commonly used toilet devices, convenient and reliable to operate, effective to flush the wastes, and efficient to save water. Regardless of the sizes of the toilet tanks, the invented dual flush toilet system can always achieve a full

flush operation using 1.6 gallons of water and a partial flush operation using less than 1.6 gallons of water, utilizing the maximum water pressure inside the water tank to maintain the maximum flushing results.

[0033] The first part of the embodiments of the invention is for the plunger-shaped flush valve. In the first embodiment, a flush toilet system comprises a toilet tank for holing water, a flush valve, a flush lever, a toilet bowl, an engaging device, and a limit device as well as its variations, and a load device as well as its variations is invented for the adjustable dual flush toilet system.

[0034] The activating device is invented to trigger the flush valve to move upwardly or downwardly and rotate about a vertical axis simultaneously. When the flush valve stays in the open position, it permits a selective volume of water to be discharged through the discharge opening and flows into the toilet bowl. Since the volume of water discharged through the water discharge opening depends on how long the flush valve to stay in the open position. The longer the flush valve stays in the open position, the more the water is drained through the discharge opening into the toilet bowl. Therefore, changing the duration of the flush valve staying in the open position leads to changing

the amount of water to be used in flushing the toilet. There are two ways to change the duration that the flush valve stays in the open position. One is to adjust the flush valve's maximum vertical travel distance and the other one is to apply an external load on the flush valve to forcibly push the flush valve down sooner to close the discharge opening.

[0035] The flush lever comprises a flush handle, a lever arm, and an extension piece. The lever arm and the extension piece are pivotally connected with each other so that extension piece can pivotally rotate about a predetermined angle between the extension piece and the lever arm. With such structure when a user pushes the flush handle down, the flush lever and the extension piece act as one unit to lift the flush valve upwardly and rightwardly. When a user pulls the flush handle up, the extension piece becomes free and rotates about the pivot toward the lever arm. One cable attached on the lever arm pulls the ring of the flush valve upwardly and leftwardly through a cable guide. This flush handle initiates an engagement with either a full flush operation or a partial flush operation for the dual flush toilet system.

[0036] The engaging device comprises an engaging protrusion,

an engaging member, and a V-shaped groove recessed in the engaging member. The engaging protrusion insertably engaged in the V-shaped groove. The V-shaped groove guides the engaging protrusion to move along with the V-shaped grove. The engaging device is employed to connect the flush valve and a support. The engaging device guides the flush valve to operate in one of the two operation cycles. One operation cycle is moving upwardly and rotating counterclockwise simultaneously, staying open, moving downwardly and rotating clockwise simultaneously, and then dropping down to close the discharge opening and returning to its initial position. The other operation process is moving upwardly and rotating clockwise simultaneously, staying open, moving downwardly and rotating counterclockwise simultaneously and then dropping down to close the discharge opening and returning to its initial position.

[0037] The limit device is used for limiting the vertical travel of the flush valve during a flushing operation. The limit device comprises a limit member, a stop member, and adjustable means for adjusting the vertical distance between the limit member and the stop member. If the flush valve travels higher, the longer the flushing lasts. The longer

the flushing lasts, the more the water is used to flush the toilet. The limit device can selectively interact with the flush valve. Such selective engagement enables the dual flush system to complete either a full flush operation or a partial flush operation.

[0038] The load device is used for applying a downward force on the flush valve to force the flush valve to close down sooner to reduce the amount of water used to flush the toilet. The load device comprises a stop member, load means for applying the load to the flush valve, and adjustable means for adjusting the load to the flush valve or adjusting the time to close the flush valve.

[0039] There are several alternative embodiments applying a downward load on the flush valve have been invented. The first embodiment of downward load means employs a preloaded device such as a spring or a weight. When a partial flush cycle is activated, the flush valve engages with the spring and stretches or compresses the spring. Accordingly, the spring applies a downward force to force the flush valve to close down earlier.

[0040] Another alternative embodiment of load device employs the weight of the water from the refill tube to the flush valve. A reservoir is affixed to the top portion of the flush

valve under the refill tube. When a partial flush operation is activated, the reservoir moves to underneath of the refill tube to fill water. The weight of the water in the reservoir applies a downward force to push the flush valve to close the discharge opening sooner.

[0041] Yet another alternative embodiment of load device employs loading means connected to a float chamber in the toilet tank wherein the loading means move upward or downward as the water level in the toilet tank rises or drops. The upward or downward movements of the loading means cause the loading means to apply a load to the flush valve and force the flush valve to close sooner.

[0042] Above summarized embodiments serve to the flush valve with combined overflow pipe and float chamber. These embodiments achieve the dual flush operations by applying an extra force to the flush valve, or by limiting the maximum travel of the flush valve, or by forcibly pushing down the flush valve. All the embodiments can be easily adjusted for suiting for various types of water tanks and for controlling the volume of water to flush the toilet according to the flushing tasks.

[0043] The invention also describes a flush lever for activating a partial flush or a full flush operation. The flush lever com-

prises a flush handle, a lever arm, and an extension piece. A flexible means is attached on the lever arm. When a user pushes down the flush handle, the flush lever activates a partial flush operation. When a user pulls up the flush handle, the flush lever activates a full flush operation.

[0044] A manual flush activating device is mounted on the toilet tank cover generally placed on the top opening of the toilet tank. This manual flush activating device comprises two push rods, two springs, flexible means which have one end connected to the flush valve and the other end connected to the push rods, and plurality of guides for altering the directions of flexible means. When a user pushes either the full flush rod or a partial flush rod, the flush valve is lifted up by the flush activating mechanism. The flush valve is then in an open position to permit the water to flow into the toilet bowl to flush the waste. As the water level drops down further, the suction force form the discharge opening pulls the flush valve downward to seal the discharge opening. By employing one flush rod for activating either a full flushing operation or a partial flushing operation, alternative embodiments for the manual flush activating embodiments are also developed. This manual activating device comprises a rod with a pivot in

the middle portion and a spring horizontally placed with one end against the push rod and the other end against an unmoving surface of a support. Two flexible means are used for connecting to the flush rod and the flush valve. By pulling the flush rod leftwardly or rightwardly and then release it, the flush rod activates the flush valve to perform a full flushing operation or a partial flushing operation. Yet another alternative embodiment of the manual flush embodiment is to employ one push pad for the dual flushing operations. This manual flushing device comprises a T-shaped push pad, two springs, two flexible means each of which has one end connected to the flush valve and the other end connected to the push rod, and guide means for altering the directions of flexible means.

[0045] Another embodiment of this invention for a dual flush toilet is to use an electronic controlled device to operate the flush valve and regulate the volume of water to flush the toilet. The electronic controlled device comprises a flush valve with a tubular body and a horizontal flange on the bottom. The bottom surface of the horizontal flange covers and seals the discharge opening. The tubular body of the flush valve is slidably axially engaged with a spud, which is secured on the grits of the discharge opening.

Two push buttons are coupled with two switches that are part of the elements of a control circuit. The switches can be switched on or off to control an electrical mechanical driver that is connected to the top portion of the flush valve. When a user pushes the first push button, the electrical drive is activated and pulls the flush valve upwardly and holds the flush valve in the open position for certain period of time to permit the water inside the water tank to flow into the toilet bowl to flush the waste. The electronic control system can automatically control the flushing time. When the circuit is turned off, the flush valve returns to its home position by a spring mounted between a shoulder on the flush valve and the bottom surface of the water tank cover or by the gravity of the flush valve. When a user pushes the second flush button, the flush operation process is similar to the full flushing operation. However, the duration of the flush valve staying open is shorter than the full flushing operation. As a result, a smaller volume of water is used in the partial flushing operation.

[0046] In this invention an embodiment of dual flush toilet system is developed for a hemisphere-shaped flapper valve. This flapper valve has a float member with a horizontal axis above the float member. A frame with one end piv-

otally connected to a support and the other end pivotally connected to the axis of the float member. The dual flush process is achieved by having at least one hole on the lower portion of the flapper valve. The flapper valve can rotate about a primarily horizontal axis located generally above the flapper valve and pivotally engaged with the far end of the frame. Two or more holes on the flapper valve can also be employed to perform the dual flush operations. With one hole on the flapper valve, the lower portion of the hole is used as a passage for the water to enter into the chamber of the flapper valve. The upper portion of the hole is used as a passage for the air inside the chamber of the flapper valve to escape. With two holes on the flapper valve, the lower hole is used as a passage for the water to enter into the chamber of the flapper valve. The upper hole is used as a passage for the air inside the chamber of the flapper valve to escape. When the flush valve is lifted, it is submerged in the water. Because of the water pressure, the air inside the chamber escapes from the chamber and the water form the water tank enters the chamber. As the water displaces the air inside the chamber, the buoyancy of the flapper valve becomes smaller and smaller. When the buoyancy of the flapper valve is

smaller than the gravity of the flapper valve, the flapper valve drops down and closes the discharge opening. Under the conventional room temperature and operation condition, the air escapes from the same size hole under the same pressure faster than the water does because of the different viscosities between air and water. Water is heavier than air; water has greater viscosity than that of air. The time that is needed for the water to enter the chamber can be adjusted by changing the shape, the location, and the relative elevations of the hole on the valve when the valve rotates to certain direction. Therefore, when the flush valve is lifted, the duration for the flapper valve to stay in the open position responding to rotating about a horizontal axis to one direction is different from the duration for the flapper vale to stay in the open position responding to rotating about a horizontal axis to the opposite direction. An adjustment device can be placed next to the surface of the hole to adjust the net size of the aperture to change the timing of the flapper valve to stay in the open position. This adjustment piece can be used to accommodate different sizes of toilet water tank and different sizes of discharge openings. The structure of this flapper valve can precisely control the volume of wa-

ter to flush the toilet. This embodiment is easy to manufacture and flexible to retrofit to all types of toilet tanks.

Brief Description of Drawings

[0047] FIG. 1A is a schematic front section view of the dual flush toilet system with an engaging device in the front, a travel limit device at the top, and a dual flush lever in front of the flush valve from present invention.

[0048] FIG. 1B is a front view of the dual flush valve, the engaging device, and the spud.

[0049] FIG. 1C is a section view showing the engagement between the dual flush valve and the engaging device taken along line 1C-1C in FIG. 1B.

[0050] FIG. 1D is a section view showing an alternative embodiment of the engagement between the dual flush valve and the engaging device.

[0051] FIG. 1E is a front view of the flush lever with a pivotal connection and flexible means connection.

[0052] FIG. 1F is a top view of the flush lever.

[0053] FIG. 1G is a view to show the dual flush operations according to present invention.

[0054] FIG. 1H is a view of another alternative embodiment of the engagement between the flush valve and the engaging

device.

[0055] FIG. 1I is a view of another alternative embodiment of the engagement between the flush valve and the engaging device.

[0056] FIG. 1J is a top view of the flush valve, taken along line 1J-1Jwith a travel limit device in the back of the flush valve.

[0057] FIG. 1K is a view of alternate embodiment of the engagement between the flush valve and the engaging device taken along line 1K-1K in FIG. 1B.

[0058] FIG. 1L is a view showing the ring attached to the flush valve and the flush lever engaged with the ring.

[0059] FIG. 1M is a view of another alternative embodiment of dual flush toilet system with a travel limit device.

[0060] FIG. 1N is a detailed section view of the travel limit device in FIG. 1M taken along line 1N-1N.

[0061] FIG. 2 is a view of the dual flush system operations.

[0062] FIG. 3A is a view showing another embodiment of the dual flush toilet system with a load device.

[0063] FIG. 3B is a top view taken along line 3B-3B of the dual flush toilet system showing in FIG. 3A.

[0064] FIG. 4A is a view of another embodiment of the dual flush system with a load device.

[0065] FIG. 4B is a side view taken along line 4B-4B of the dual flush view system shown in FIG. 4A.

[0066] FIG. 4C is a top view taken along line 4C-4C of the dual flush system shown in FIG. 4A.

[0067] FIG. 4D is another alternative embodiment of the dual flush toilet system with a load device.

[0068] FIG. 4E is a top view of the dual flush toilet system with the load device in FIG. 4D.

[0069] FIG. 4F is a top view showing an alternative embodiment of a load device.

[0070] FIG. 5A is a front view of another alternative embodiment of the dual flush toilet system with a load device.

[0071] FIG. 5B is an enlarged view of the dual flush system with the load device shown in FIG. 5A.

[0072] FIG. 5C is the side view of the dual flush toilet system with a load device taken along line 5C-5C shown in FIG. 5A.

[0073] FIG. 5D is an enlarged top view of the dual flush system load device taken along line 5D-5D shown in FIG. 5A.

[0074] FIG. 5E is a section-view of FIG. 5D taken along line 5E-5E in FIG. 5D.

[0075] FIG. 5F is a top view of the dual flush toilet system shown in FIG 5A in a full flush operation.

[0076] FIG. 5G is a top view of the dual flush toilet system shown

in FIG 5A in a partial flush operation.

[0077] FIG. 6 is a view of another alternative embodiment of the dual flush toilet system employing two flush valves and two flush levers.

[0078] FIG. 7 is a view of another alternative embodiment of the dual flush toilet system using two flush valves and one flush lever.

[0079] FIG. 8A is another alternative embodiment of the dual flush toilet system with a manual flush device mounted on the water tank cover.

[0080] FIG. 8B is an enlarged section view of the dual flush mechanism shown in FIG. 8A.

[0081] FIG. 8C is an alternative embodiment of the dual flush toilet system with manual operation.

[0082] FIG. 8D is another enlarged section view of the dual flush toilet system shown in FIG. 8C.

[0083] FIG. 9A is an electronically controlled dual flush toilet system.

[0084] FIG. 9B is an enlarged section view of the electrically controlled dual flush toilet system shown in FIG. 9A.

[0085] FIG. 9C is a section view of the bottom of electric controlled dual flush toilet system shown in FIG. 9A.

[0086] FIG. 9D is a section view taken along line 9D-9D showing

the guide protrusions of the spud and the dual flush valve in FIG. 9A.

[0087] FIG. 10 is a view of control circuit employed to control the dual toilet flush system shown in FIG. 9A.

[0088] FIG. 11A is a view of the embodiment of a dual flush toilet system with a flapper valve.

[0089] FIG. 11B is a side view of the dual flush toilet system taken along line 11B-11B shown in FIG. 11A.

[0090] FIG. 11C is a view of the flapper valve in a full flush operation for the dual flush toilet system shown in FIG. 11B.

[0091] FIG. 11D is a view of the flapper valve in a partial flush operation for the dual flush toilet system shown in FIG. 11B.

[0092] FIG. 11E is a bottom view of an alternative embodiment of the flapper valve.

[0093] FIG. 11F is a bottom view of another alternative embodiment of the flapper valve.

[0094] FIG. 11G is a bottom view of another alternative embodiment of the flapper valve.

[0095] FIG. 11H is a bottom view of the flapper valve in an initial position for the dual flush toilet system.

[0096] FIG. 11I is a view of the flapper valve in a full flushing operation position for the dual flush toilet system.

[0097] FIG. 11J is a view of the flapper valve in a partial flushing operation position for the dual flush toilet system.

[0098] FIG. 11K is a view of the embodiment of the connection between the flapper valve and the frame shown in FIG. 11B.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0099] Reference is made to the drawings for a description of the preferred embodiments of the present invention wherein like reference numbers represent like elements in corresponding views.

[0100] Referring now to FIG. 1A, it is a front view of the first embodiment of a dual flush toilet system *120*. This invention of the dual flush toilet system *120* comprises a toilet water tank *122* with a discharge opening *159* on the bottom, a toilet bowl (not shown) located below the toilet tank *122*, a flush valve *156* with an upstanding elongated tubular body rising above the water level which can move upwardly and rotate about a vertical axis for selectively performing a full flush operation or a partial flush operation, a spud *146* for supporting the flush valve *156*, a flush lever *130* for activating a full flush or a partial flush operation, a float *148* for controlling the water inlet valve and refilling the water to the toilet water tank *122* of the dual flush toilet system

120. A water discharge opening *159* is located at the bottom of the toilet water tank *122* connected to the toilet bowl for the water in the toilet water tank *122* to discharge into the toilet bowl via a draining passage *162* to flush the wastes. A float *148* is connected through a float arm *147* to the inlet valve mounted on a water refill pipe *128* for maintaining the water level inside the toilet water tank *122* to a predetermined level after each flushing of the toilet system. The float *148* can be employed to apply a downward load to the flush valve *156* to forcibly close the discharge opening *159*. An engaging device *161* is employed for enabling the flush valve *156* to move upwardly or downwardly and simultaneously rotates about a vertical axis of the spud *146*, A first limit device *141* is employed for adjusting the upward traveling height of the flush valve *156* when the toilet system *120* performs a full flush operation and a second limit device *142* is employed for adjusting the upward traveling height of the flush valve *156* when the toilet system *120* performs a partial flush operation.

[0101] The dual flush toilet system *120* incorporates the spud *146* that is demountably secured to the bottom of the toilet water tank *122* as shown in FIG. 1A. The spud *146* has a

tubular body having a lower end being secured to the discharge opening *159*. The spud *146* provides support to the flush valve *156* and a top member *138* and guides the movement of the flush valve *156* through a cable guide *136*. The top member *138* mounted on top of the spud *146* accommodates one end of a refill tube *140* into the spud. The other end of the refill tube *140* is connected to the refill tube *128*.

[0102] The flush valve *156*, with a float chamber at the bottom and a tubular body on upper portion, can slidably engage with the body of the spud *146* upwardly or downwardly and in rotating about a vertical axis. The engaging device *161* is employed to guide the movement of the flush valve *156*. An engaging protrusion *160* of the engaging device *161* as shown in FIG. 1B is connected to the flush valve and is receivablly and slidably engaged with the V-shaped groove *166* of the engaging member *158* of the engaging device *161*. A ring *152* is affixed generally on the top portion of the flush valve *156*. The flush lever *130*, which is slidably engaged with the ring *152* as shown in FIG. 1L, has an extension piece *132* through the opening of the ring *152*. The flush lever *130* has a flush handle *126* located on top outside the water tank *122* through a lever pivot *124*.

One end of a flexible cable *134* is attached to the attaching point *133* of the lever arm *131* near the pivot *135*, as shown in FIGS 1E and 1F, and the other end is connected to the ring *152*. On the upper portion of the flush valve *156* a stop member *150* extends radially outwardly on the cylindrical surface of the flush valve *156* and moves together with the flush valve *156*. When the flush valve *156* moves up, the stop member *150* also moves up and contacts with either a first limit device *141* or a second limit device *142* according to the waste in the toilet bowl. The top member *138* is demountably secured on the top portion of the spud *146*. Both the first limit device *141* and the second limit device *142* can be adjusted to limit the travel of the flush valve *156*. The purpose to permit the flush valve *156* to have such upright travel limits is to make the flush valve *156* close the discharge opening *159* sooner to use a smaller volume of water to flush the liquid waste, or close later to use a larger volume of water to flush the solid waste, regardless of the shape of the toilet water tank *122*. The higher the flush valve *156* travels upward, the longer the flush valve stays open because the flush valve is pulled by the downward suction force from the discharge opening *159* when the flush valve *156* is lowered enough

to close the discharge opening *159*. The longer the flush valve *156* stays open, the larger the volume of water to be used to flush the toilet. As a result, controlling the flush valve *156*'s vertical travel generally regulates the volume of water to be used to flush the toilet bowl. Now referring to FIG. 1G and FIG. 1J, to achieve quality flushing of the waste and retrofit various toilet tanks from different manufacturers, the first limit device *141*is employed to restrict the flush valve *156*'s travel for a full flush operation and the second limit device *142* for adjusting the flush valve *156*'s travel in a partial flush operation. The first limit device *141* and the second limit device *142* can be threaded studs that can be adjusted with the threaded hole on the top member *138*. The first limit devices *141* and the second limit device *142* can also employ a setscrew on the top member *138* to adjust the first limit devices *141* and the second limit device *142* to different positions. When the flush valve *156* moves up and rotates counterclockwise about a veridical axis, the stop member *150* moves under the first limit member *141* and then is stopped by the first limit device *141*. When the flush valve *156* moves up and rotates clockwise about a veridical axis, the stop member *150* moves under the second limit member *142* and then is

stopped by the second limit device *142*. The first limit device *141* and the second limit device *142* can be independently adjusted to limit the maximum upward travel of the stop member *150*. It has been noted that similar adjusting mechanisms that are widely used in industries can be also applied in this situation. The maximum travel can be adjusted according to the volume of water required to complete the flushing and accommodated to the characteristics of the various types of toilet systems.

[0103] As shown in FIG. 1A, the water refill tube *140* has one end inserted through a hole in the top member *138* and the other end connected to the water refill pipe *128*. The refill tube *140* is used to fill a small amount of water into the toilet bowl after each flushing operation. A cable guide *136*, which permits a cable *134* to slide through the loop of the cable guide *136* and alter the direction of the movement of the cable *134*, is secured on the top member *138*. The cable guide *136* coordinates the cable *134* to pass through the loop of the cable guide *136*, with one end connecting to the cable *134* to the lever arm *131* and the other end to the top of the ring *152* as shown in FIG. 1A. It is noted that the flexible cable *134* can be replaced by other flexible means such as chains, lines, cords, or any

other flexible or bendable elements used in industries.

[0104] The valve engaging device *161* is shown in FIGS. 1B, 1C, 1D, 1H, and 1I. The valve engaging device *161* has an engaging member *158* in which a V-shaped groove *166* is recessed on the inner surface of the engaging member *158* and is receivablly, insertably, and slidably engaged with the engaging protrusion *160*. The V-shaped groove *166* has two branches *162L* and *162R*. The left branch *162L* extended from the vertex *168* of the V-shaped groove *166* leftwardly and upwardly to its upper portion *164L*. The right branch *162R* extends rightwardly and upwardly to its upper portion *164R*. The engaging member *158* has an inner surface parallel to the outer surface of the flush valve *156*. The valve engaging member *158* is mounted on the base of the spud *146* in this embodiment. However, valve engaging member *158* can be affixed to any unmoving part in the toilet system. The engaging protrusion *160* is attached on the outer surface of the flush valve *156* with portion of the body of protrusion *160* is insertably extended into the recessed groove of the V-shaped groove *166* and can be slidably engaged with the V-shaped groove *166*. The V-shaped groove *166* limits the engaging protrusion *160* to move along either of the two branches

162L and *162R* . When the flush valve *156* is in a close position it seats against the flange of the water discharge opening *159*. The engaging protrusion *160* is above the vertex *168* of the V-shaped groove *166*. There is a small gap *170* as shown in FIGS. 1C and 1D between the bottom of the engaging protrusion *160* and the vertex *168* of the groove *166* to assure that the engaging protrusion *160* has no interference with the closing of the discharge opening *159*. This small gap is also needed to assure that the flush valve firmly seats on the flange of the discharge opening *159* and prevent the water from leaking into the toilet bowl when not in use.

[0105] FIG. 1C is a cross-section view that shows the engagement of the engaging protrusion *160* on the flush valve *156* with the V-shaped groove *166* of the engaging member *158*. An alternative embodiment for the valve engaging device *161* is to place the V-shaped groove *166* on the flush valve and the engaging protrusion *160* on the guide member *156* as shown in FIG. 1D. The V-shaped groove *166* turns upside down with the vertex *168* on the top and the branches below it. Similarly, the V-shaped groove *166* and the engaging protrusion *160* can also be placed on the flush valve *156* and the spud *146* as shown in FIGS. 1H and

1I. The V-shaped groove *166* is employed to ensure that when the flush valve *156* is activated to initiate both an upward movement and a simultaneously rotation clockwise if the flush valve is engaged in the left branch of the groove *162L*, or counterclockwise if the flush valve is engaged in the right branch *162R* of the V-shaped groove *166*. The upwardly counterclockwise rotational movement of the flush valve *156* permits the stop member *150* to have a movement guided by the path of the branch *162R* and *164R* until the second limit device *142* stops the travel stop member *150* and prevent it from moving up farther. The upwardly clockwise rotational movement of the flush valve *156* permits the stop member *150* to have a movement guided by the path of the left branch *162L* and *164L* until the first limit device *141* stops the stop member *150* and prevent it from moving up farther.

[0106] FIGS. 1E and 1F show the embodiment of the flush lever *130* of the invention for the dual flush toilet system. The flush lever*130* has a flush handle *126* for a user to activate a full flush operation or a partial flush operation, the lever arm *131* for activating the cable *134*, the extension piece *132* for activating the ring *152*, a lever pivot *124* with a generally horizontal axis, and an arm pivot *135* with a

generally horizontal axis for the extension piece *132* to rotate about the arm pivot *135* within a predetermined angle. In this invention, the flush lever arm *131* and the extension piece *132* are pivotally connected at one end of the lever arm *131* within a slot received at one end of the lever arm *131*. The extension piece *132* can only rotate within a predetermined angle towards the lever arm *131* and are not permitted to rotate beyond this predetermined angle to the position *132B*. As shown in FIG. 1E the bottom edge of the slot at the edge *137* of the lever arm *131* is extended under the extension piece *132* and against the bottom surface of the extension piece *132*. The edge *137* of the slot at the end of the lever arm *131* prevents the extension piece *132* from rotating beyond the predetermined angle. When the flush handle *126* rotates counterclockwise, the lever arm *131* and the extension piece *132* move as one piece because the edge *137* of the slot of the lever arm *131* prevents the extension piece *132* from rotating beyond the predetermined angle. As a result, the extension piece *132* pushes the ring *152* upwardly and rightwardly to lift the flush valve *156*. In this situation the cable *134* is slacked as indicated in *134A* in FIG. 1G. When a user pulls up the flush handle *126*, the lever arm *131* rotates

clockwise and the extension piece *132* can freely rotates about the arm pivot *135* to *132B* and cannot take effect on the ring *152*. As a result, the lever arm *131* pulls the cable *134* downward. The cable *134* will pulls the ring *152* upwardly and leftwardly to activate the flush valve *156* in a full flush operation as shown in FIG. 1E.

[0107] FIG. 1G illustrates the operations of the lever arm *131*. According to the types of wastes to be flushed in the toilet bowl, a user can decide to have a full flush operation by pulling up the flush handle *126* to position *126B* or a partial flush operation by pushing down the flush handle *126* to position *126A*. When the dual flush toilet is not used, the flush valve seats on the flange of the water discharge opening *159* as shown in FIG. 1A. When the flush handle *126* is pulled up and turned in position *126B*, the lever arm *131* rotates clockwise around the lever pivot *124*. Since the cable *134* is connected to the far end of the lever arm *131* at the attaching point *133*, the flush lever body will rotate about the lever pivot *124* and the cable *134* will pull the ring *152* to position *152L* through the cable guide *136*. The cable will be stretched as indicated in *134B*. Now referring FIGS. 1G, 1J and 2, as the ring *152* is lifted ad move to the position *152L*, the flush valve *156* moves upwardly and ro-

tates clockwise about a vertical axis simultaneously as shown in FIG. 1J because the engaging device *161* only permits the flush valve *156* to move and rotate along the V-shaped groove *166* as described above. Accordingly, the stop member *150* moves upwardly and clockwise to position *150L* until the first limit device *141* stops the stop member *150*. During this process the extension piece *132* becomes loosely held in the ring *152* and can be freely rotate about the arm pivot *135*. Hence it has not effect on the flush valve *156*'s movement. As shown in FIG. 1B the engaging protrusion *160* of the engaging device *161* moves along the left branch *162L* of the V-shaped groove *166* to the upper position *164L*. The protrusion *160* moves to the position *160L*. The flush valve *156* is in open position because the buoyancy from the air trapped in the chamber of the flush valve *156* lifts the flush valve *156* up. The first limit device *141* stops the stop member *150*. As the flush valve *156* remains in open position, the water from the toilet water tank *122* discharges though the discharge opening *159* into the toilet bowl to flush the waste. As the water level drops, the buoyancy from the chamber of the flush valve *156* becomes smaller. When the total downward force from the suction force of the discharge

opening *159*, the reaction force from the first limit device *141*, and the gravity of the flush valve *156* becomes greater than the buoyancy of the flush valve *156*, the flush valve *156* drops downward and rotates counterclockwise about a vertical axis simultaneously closing the discharge opening *159*. The engaging protrusion *160* returns to its initial position. This process completes a full flush operation.

[0108] Similarly, the partial flush operation can be performed in the same process. When the flush handle *126* is pushed down and turned to position *126A* as shown in FIG 1A, the lever arm *131* rotates counterclockwise about the lever pivot *124*. In this situation the cable *134* is slacked as indicated in *134A* and does not have effect on the control of the movement of the flush valve *156*. The extension piece *132*, under the restriction of rotation beyond the predetermined angle, is driven by the lever arm *131* and push against the upper inner edge of the ring *152*. The extension piece *132* moves to position *132A* and lifts the ring *152* upwardly leftwardly to position *152R* as shown in FIG. 1G. Now referring FIGS. 1G, 1J, and 2, as the ring *152* is lifted, the flush valve *156* moves upwardly and rotates counterclockwise about a vertical axis simultaneously because the engaging device *161* only permits the flush valve

156 to move and rotate along the V-shaped groove *166* as described previously. Accordingly, the travel stop member *150* moves upwardly and rotates counterclockwise to position *150R* until the second limit device *142* stops the stop member *150*. During this process the extension piece *132* activates the movement of the ring *152*. As shown in FIGS. 1B and 2, the engaging protrusion *160* moves along the right branch *162R* of the V-shaped groove *166* then to the right upper branch *164R*. The protrusion *160* moves to the position *160R*. The flush valve *156* is in open position because the buoyancy from the air trapped in the chamber of the flush valve *156* lifts the flush valve *156* upwardly and rightwardly until the second limit device *142* stops the stop member *150*. As the flush valve *156* remains in open position, the water from the toilet water tank *122* discharges though the discharge opening *159* into the toilet bowl to flush the waste. As the water level drops, the buoyancy of the chamber of the flush valve *156* becomes smaller. When the total downward force from the suction force from the discharge opening *159*, the reaction force from the second limit device *142*, and the downward gravity of the flush valve *156* becomes greater than the buoyancy of the flush valve *156*, the flush valve *156* drops

downward and rotates clockwise simultaneously to close the discharge opening *159*. The engaging protrusion *160* returns to its initial position. This cycle completes a partial flush operation. In this invention, the stop member *150* can be attached to the surface of the flush valve *156* with minimum modification. It is understandable that the first limit device *141* and the second limit device *142* are interchangeable and they can employ the same mechanism as long as they perform the control of the timing of flushing described above by stopping the stop member *150* at different positions.

[0109] For the same reason the engaging device *161* can have similar embodiments as long as the flush valve is engaged in a rotation about a vertical axis simultaneously. FIG 1H shows a similar valve engaging mechanism between the flush valve *156* and the spud *146* where the engaging protrusion *160* is affixed on the spud *146* and the V-shaped groove *166* is affixed on the flush valve *156*. FIG. 1I shows the engaging protrusion *160* is affixed on the flush valve *156* and the V-shaped groove *166* is affixed on the spud *146*. These alternative embodiments can be implemented by inversing the V-shaped groove upside down shown in FIG. 1K.

[0110] FIGS. 1M and 1N disclose another alternative embodiment of the first limit device *181* and the second limit device *182* located in the upper portion of the branches *164L* and *164R* of the V-shaped groove *166*. Both the first limit device *181* and the second limit device *182* are the same. The only difference is their locations in the upper branches *164L* and *164R* of the V-shaped groove *166*. The first limit device *181* is mounted at a higher elevation than the second limit device *182* as described in previous embodiment. FIG. 1N shows the cross sectional view of the second limit device *182*. A slot *186* is cut through the wall of the upper portion of the branch *164R* of the V-shaped groove *166* located in the engaging member *158*. The slot *186* has an opening with the width smaller than the width of the groove and with the elongated side aligned with the orientation of the right branch *164R* of the V-shaped groove *166*. A screw *183* has a head portion with the diameter larger than the width of the slot *186* and a threaded body portion with a diameter smaller than the opening of the slot *186* and a length longer than the thickness of the wall of the branch *164R* of the V-shaped groove *166*. The screw *183* is assembled into the branch *164R* by pushing its body through the slot *186* with the head of the screw *183*

against the bottom surface of the V-shaped groove *166* and with the end of the body is screwably engaged with a nut *184*. The location of the screw *183* can be easily adjusted by loosing the nut *184* and them moving the screw *183* upward to *186B* or downward to *186A* and then tighten the nut *184* to secure the screw *183* in a desired position. The adjustment of the screw *183* permits the flush valve *156* to move to a different position to accommodate different sizes of toilet tanks with constant volume of water used to flush the toilet. Because the head of the screw *183* is located in the middle of the right branch *164R*, the head of the screw *183* stops the engaging protrusion *160* and prevents it from moving up beyond the head of the screw *183*. In order to permit more water in the toilet water tank *122* to flow though the discharge opening *159* to flush the waste, the screw *183* of the second limit device *182* can be set toward *186B* direction to increase the volume of water to flush or toward *186A* direction to reduce the volume of water to flush the waste. The operation of the flush is similar to the operation process described in previous embodiments.

[0111] Another alternative embodiment of the toilet flush adjustment mechanism in this invention is disclosed in FIGS. 3A

and 3B. In this embodiment, a load device *320* is provided for selectively applying a downward force to the flush valve *156*. The purpose to have this additional downward force to the flush valve *156* is to add an additional downward load to the flush valve *156* to close the discharge opening *156* sooner. The sooner the flush valve closes; the smaller volume of water is used to flush the toilet. The load device *320* comprises a support member *322*, a bottom plate *324* with an adjustment element *326*, a spring *328*, a top plate *330*, and a stop member *334*. The support member *322* has an L-shaped body with bottom portion mounted on the base of the spud *146* and a straight elongated uniform cross-sectional body portion standing upright accessible to the flush valve *156*. In the middle portion of the support member *322* there is an adjustable bottom plate *324* with a hole in the middle slidably engaged with the body of the support member *322* and with another threaded hole radially cut through its outer cylindrical circumference extending to the center hole so the adjustable element *326* can screw into the threaded hole with the end of the adjustable element *326* pressing against the surface of the body of the support member *322*. The adjustable element *326* can be used to adjust the

position of the bottom plate *324* along any straight position of the L-shaped support member *322*. The lower end of the spring *328* is affixed to the bottom plate *324*. The upper end of the spring *328* is affixed to the top plate *330*. The top plate *330* has a hole in which the support member *322* slides into the hole so the top plate *330* can slidably move upwardly or downwardly along the support member *322*. The left side of the top plate *330* extends horizontally beyond the outmost diameter of the spring *328* and above the engaging protrusion *160*. The stop member *334* is secured on top end of the support member *322* for restricting the top plate *330*.

[0112] To perform a partial flush operation, a user pushes the flush handle *126*. The lever arm *131* rotates counterclockwise. The extension piece *132* pushes the ring *152* upwardly and rightwardly simultaneously. As a result of the upward rightward movement of the extension piece *132*, the cable *134* slacks and has no effect on the operation of the flush valve *156*. The engaging protrusion *160* on the flush valve *156* slidably engages in the right lower branch *162R* and then *164R*. Hence, the flush valve *156* engages with the right branch of the V-shaped groove *166* and moves up. In the meantime the stop member *150* moves

to position *150R* below the top plate *330* as shown in FIG. 3B. As the flush valve *156* continues to move up, the stop member *150* contacts the top plate *330* then pushes the top plate *330* upwardly. As the top plate *330* moves up, it stretches the spring *328*. Accordingly, the stretched spring *328* applies a downward force to the stop member *150*. Because of the extra force applied to the flush valve *156* by the stretched spring *328*, the flush valve *156* can only travel up to a position lower than the position if there is no interference between the stop member *150* and the top plate *330*. As a result, the flush valve *156* shuts down the flushing sooner and the volume of the water from the toilet water tank *122* flows into the toilet bowl is smaller. When the total force form the weight of the flush valve *156* itself, the and the downward force from the spring *328*, and the suction force from the discharge opening *159* is greater than the buoyancy of the float of the flush valve *156*, the flush valve *156* moves downward. Because the engaging protrusion *160* is slidably engaged with the right branch of the V-shaped groove *166*, the engaging protrusion *160* guides the flush valve *156* to move downwardly and rotate clockwise. When the bottom of the flush valve *156* seals the discharge opening *159* the engaging protru-

sion *160* stays slightly above the groove vertex *168*. The flush valve *156* returns to its initial position. The stop member *150* disengages with the top plate *330* when the stop member *150* moves below the initial position of the top plate *330*.

[0113] As shown in FIG. 3B, if a full flush operation is performed, the lever arm *131* rotates clockwise and pulls down the end of the cable *134* attached to the far end of lever arm *131*. The other end of the cable *134* pulls the ring *152* leftwardly and upwardly leading the engaging protrusion *160* to engage the left branch *162L* of the V-shaped groove *166*. As a result of such movement, the stop member *150* moves upwardly and rotate clockwise simultaneously to the position *150L*. In this situation the stop member *150* will not engage with the load device *320*. The flush valve *156* performs a full flush operation. The flushing process has been described in previous embodiments. The volume of water for a partial flush can be incrementally adjusted by loosing the setscrew of the adjustment element *326* and then move the bottom plate *324* higher or lower along the body of support member *322*. Generally, lowering the bottom plate *324* results in more stretch of the spring *328* and a greater downward force applied to the stop member

150. This serves as less water consumed in the partial flush process. Similarly, if the top plate *330* is set at a higher level, a larger volume of water will be consumed in a flush operation.

[0114] Another alternative embodiment of the load device *320* is implemented by inversing the position of the top plate *330* and the bottom plate *324*. The bottom plate *324* is placed on upper and the top plate is placed under the bottom plate *324*. The spring *328* becomes a compressed spring when stop member *150* engages with the top plate *330*. The spring *328* applies a downward force to the flush valve *156* to make the flush valve *156* close sooner. As a result, a smaller volume of water is used in the flushing process.

[0115] FIG. 4A shows another alternative embodiment of the load device *420* for controlling the time to keep the flush valve *156* open by applying a downward load to the flush valve *156*. As shown in FIGS. 4B and 4C the load device *420* comprises a support member *426* with an L-shaped body with the first end adjustably mounted on a generally horizontal oriented float arm *147* by two setscrews *425* pressing against the removable lower half cover *427* and the second end cantileverally hanging toward the flush valve *156*, a second adjustable member *424* screwably mounted

approximately at the second end of the support member *426* with a threaded hole on the support member *426*, and a load plate *422* mounted on the lower end of the second adjustable member *424*. The float arm *147* is connected to the toilet tank float *148* which moves up as the water level rises when water flows into the toilet water tank *122*, or drops down as the water level lowers as the water from the toilet water tank *122* discharges into the toilet bowl to flush the waste. When a user pushes down the flush handle *126*, the extension piece *132* of the flush lever *130* pushes the ring *152* upwardly and rightwardly. The upward and rightward movement enables the engaging protrusion *160* to engage in the right branch *162R* of the V-shaped groove *166* as shown in FIGS. 1B and 1G. The stop member *150* also moves both upwardly and rotates counterclockwise. As a result of such movement, the stop member *150* rotates from its initial position to position *150R* and under the load plate *422* as shown in FIG. 4C. As the flush valve *156* moves up, it opens the discharge opening *159*. The water in the toilet water tank *122* flows through the discharge opening *159* into the toilet bowl to flush the waste. As the water in the toilet water tank *122* drains through the discharge opening *159*, the water level inside

the toilet tank drops accordingly. As the water level in the toilet water tank *122* drops, the float *148* and the float arm *147* drop accordingly. The load plate *422* mounted on the support member *426* of the load device *420*, as shown in FIGS. 4B and 4C, moves downward at position *422A* and contacts the upper surface of the stop member *150*. As the water level in the toilet water tank *122* lowers further, the load plate *422* applies a downward force on the stop member *150* and forcibly pushes the flush valve *156* downward. Guided by the engaging protrusion *160* and restricted by the right branch *162R* and *164R* of the V-shaped groove *166*, the flush valve *156* moves downward and rotates clockwise to close the discharge opening *159* and complete the partial flush operation. When the discharge opening *159* is closed, the water inlet valve that is not shown is open and the water from the inlet pipe *128* refills the toilet water tank *122*. As the water level rises, the float *148* rises accordingly. The load device *420* mounted on the float arm *147* returns to its initial position. The full flush operation is similar to the partial flush operation described above. From FIG. 4C the stop member *150* moves to the location *150L* as the ring *152* moves to location *152L*. Since there is no interaction between the

engaging protrusion *160* and the stop member *150*, there is no extra load applying to the flush valve *156*. The flush valve performs a full flush operation.

[0116] Another alternative embodiment of the load device *420* is illustrated in FIG. 4F, wherein there are two adjustable members: a first adjustable member *423* and the second adjustable member *424* mounted on the support member *426* of the load device *420*. The first adjustable member *423* is vertically screwably mounted approximately on the right side of the second end of the support member *426* and the second adjustable member *424* is vertically screwably mounted approximately on the left side of the second end of the support member *426*. In this embodiment, the load plate *422* is taken off so the first adjustable member *423* and the second adjustable member *424* are directly placed above the full flush position *150L* and the partial flush position *150R* of the stop member *150*. The first adjustable member *423* and the second adjustable member *424* can be independently adjusted to set at different heights so the load device *420* can forcibly push the flush valve *156* down to close the discharge opening *159*. Raising the lower end of the adjustable members *423* or *424* allows the load device *420* to close the flush valve later so

that a large volume of water is used in flushing the toilet. Similarly, lowering the lower end of the adjustable members *423* or *424* allows the load device *420* to close the flush valve *156* sooner. Hence the smaller volume of water is used in flushing the toilet.

[0117] The same load device *420* can also be applied to a vertical mounted float *440* which is slidably mounted on the water refill pipe *128* with a guide element *444* to prevent the load device *420* from rotating about the vertical axis of the refill pipe *128* as shown in FIGS. 4D and 4E. The first end of the support member *450* is securely mounted on the vertical float *440* that is vertically and movably mounted on the water inlet pipe. The operation is the same as the operations of the embodiment as described in previous paragraphs.

[0118] Generally, in this invention the dual flush operation process can be described as following: first, activating the flush valve *156* in the water tank *122* and opening discharge opening *159*; second, moving the flush valve *156* upwardly and rotating about a vertical axis in a first direction; third, discharging the water from the water tank *122* through the discharge opening *159* of the water tank *122* to flush wastes in the toilet bowl (not shown); fourth, en-

gaging an interaction on the flush valve *156* so that the volume of water used to flush the dual flush toilet system *120* can be controlled according to the waste in the dual flush toilet system *120*; fifth, moving the flush valve *156* downwardly and rotating about the vertical axis opposite to the first direction; and sixth seating the flange of the flush valve *156* on the discharge opening *159*.

[0119] It is understandable that the previously described embodiments can employ any floating device as long as the device has specific gravity less than the specific gravity of water so the floating device can float on the water surface and rises or drops as the water level rises and drops.

[0120] Another embodiment of the load device *520* is shown in FIGS. 5A through 5G. The load device comprises a diverter *526* and a reservoir *528* which are mounted on the upper portion of the flush valve *156* and under the refill tube *140*. The diverter *526* and the reservoir *528* are used for employing the weight of the water from the refill tube *140* to selectively apply a downward force to the flush valve to forcibly shut down the flush valve *156*.

[0121] FIGS. 5B, 5C, 5D, 5E, 5F, and 5G illustrate the structures of the load device *520* in the dual flush toilet system. FIG. 5B shows that the diverter *526* and the reservoir *528* are

mounted on the upper end of the flush valve *156* encircling the rear half of the external circumference of the flush valve *156* as shown in FIG. 5C. The diverter *526* and the reservoir *528* have both bottoms extending horizontally radially outwardly from the outer circumferential surface of the flush valve *156* and then joining an upward cylindrical wall encircling the half of the upper portion of the flush valve *156*. A separation wall *530* separates the diverter *526* and the reservoir *528*. The diverter *526* is for the full flush operations and the reservoir *528* is for the partial flush operations. For the diverter *526* there are only three walls; the inner wall is cut off from the bottom surface of the diverter *526*, making the water in the full flush reservoir drain through the open end *534* into the discharge opening *159*. The reservoir *528* has four walls: the inner wall and the outer wall, and the two radial walls. The inner and the outer walls are concentric and the two radial walls are 90 degrees apart. There is a draining hole *532* located at the bottom of the inner wall of reservoir *528* as shown in FIG. 5E. The draining hole *532* has a cross-sectional area smaller than the cross-sectional area of the refill tube *140* so that when the refill tube *140* fills water into the reservoir *528*, the inflow water is significantly greater

than the outflow water from the draining hole *532*.

[0122] Now referring the top views FIGS. 5F and 5G, the operation of the load device *520* is described. When the load device *520* is in the initial position, the end of the refill tube *140* is mounted on the top member *138* directly above the separation wall *530* as shown in FIG. 5D. A user performs a full flush operation by pulling up the flush handle *126*. The lever arm *131* rotates clockwise, pulling the cable *134* downward which then pulls the flush valve *156* upwardly and leftwardly. As a result, the diverter *526* now moves underneath the refill tube *140* as shown in FIG. 5F. As the flush valve *156* moves up, it opens the discharge opening *159*, the water in the toilet water tank *122* flows into the toilet bowl to flush the waste. As the water lever lowers the float *148* lowers accordingly. The downward movement of the float *148* triggers the refill valve (not shown) to open and the refill pipe *128* refills the water in the toilet water tank *122*. Since the refill tube *140* is connected to the refill pipe *128*, portion of the water will be divert through the refill tube *140* into the diverter *526*. From the FIG. 5E it can be seen that because the inside wall of the diverter *526* is cut off from the bottom the diverter *526* cannot retain the water coming from the refill

tube *140*. The water in the diverter *526* directly flows from the bottom and drops down through the gap between the flush valve *156* and the spud *146* and further down to the toilet bowl as indicated by the arrows in FIG. 5E. In this situation, there is no significant force applying to the flush valve *156* by the water passing through the diverter. As the water level in the water tank drops to a certain level, the total downward force from the weigh of the flush valve and the suction force of the discharge opening *159*, exceeds the buoyancy of the flush valve *156*, the flush valve *156* moves downward and closes the discharge opening *159*. As the flush valve *156* moves downward, the engaging protrusion *160* moves along the left branch *164L* and *162L* and then return to its initial position slightly above the vertex *168* of the V-shaped groove *166* as shown in FIG. 1B. When the water in the toilet water tank *122* reaches the predetermined maximum level, the float *148* shuts the refill valve off (not shown). Consequently, the water in the refill tube *140* is turned off. The remaining water in the reservoir *528* continues to drain through the draining hole *532* into the toilet bowl. The full flush operation cycle is complete.

[0123] The partial flush operation is described as following. When

a user pushes down the flush handle *126*, the extension piece *132* pushes the flush valve *156* upwardly and rightwardly. The engaging protrusion *160* engages in the right branch of the V-shaped grooves *166*. Hence the flush valve *156* also moves upwardly and rotates counterclockwise about a vertical axis simultaneously. The simultaneous upward movement and counterclockwise rotation make the reservoir *528* turn counterclockwise under the refill tube *140* as shown in FIG 5G. As the discharge opening *159* is in open position, the water from the toilet water tank *122* flows through the discharge opening *159* and into the toilet bowl.

[0124] As the water lever drops, the float *148* drops accordingly. The downward movement of the float *148* triggers the refill valve (not shown) to open and the refill pipe *128* refills the water in the toilet water tank *122*. Since the refill tube *140* is connected to the refill pipe *128*, portion of the water will be divert through the refill tube *140* into reservoir *528*. From FIG. 5E it can be seen that because the draining hole *532* is smaller than the inside diameter of the refill tube *140*, the amount of water comes from the refill tube *140* is greater than the amount of water draining out through the draining hole *532*. The extra water is held in the reservoir

528. The weight of the water inside the reservoir *528* applies a downward force to the flush valve *156*. The extra weight from the water in the reservoir *528* forces the flush valve *156* to move downward and rotate clockwise about a vertical axis. Because of the weight of the water from the reservoir *528*, the flush valve *156* closes down sooner than in a full flush operation. Earlier close of the discharge opening *159* results in a smaller volume of water is used to flush the toilet. This realizes the objective of this invention to save water in flushing liquid waste. The amount of water to be saved in the partial flush operation can be achieved by adjusting the inner diameter of the refill tube *140* or the size of the draining hole *532*. For example, by increasing the diameter of the refill tube *140* and decreasing the size of the draining hole *532*, the water from the refill tube *140* will fill the reservoir *528* faster. As a result, the flush valve *156* closes sooner. An adjustable device such as a flow control valve can be added to the draining hole *532* to adjust the size of the draining hole *532* so the timing to close the valve can be controlled by the ratio of the inner diameter of the refill tube *140* to the size of the draining hole *532*. The same principle can also apply to the full flush operation by change the size of the opening

of the diverter *526*.

[0125] Another alternative dual flush toilet embodiment is illustrated in FIG. 6. In this dual flush toilet system, there are two flush valves: a full flush valve system *620* and a partial flush valve system *630*. The flush lever *640* operates the full flush valve system *620* and the flush lever *642* operates the partial flush valve system *630*, respectively. There are two discharge openings: the first discharge opening *159* and the second discharge opening *659* which are placed side by side generally with a gap between them so that the operation of one flush valve does not affect the other. A discharge passage *632* is connected to the first discharge opening *159* and a discharge passage *634* to the second discharge opening *659*. The first discharge opening *159* and the second discharge opening *659* join in the middle to form a draining passage *162* through the bottom wall of the toilet water tank *122*. The flush valve *156* is used for the full flush operation and the flush valve *656* is used for the partial flush operation. The flush valve *156* and the flush valve *656* can be identical in structure but have different travel limit devices *614* and *616* so the flush valve *156* has a longer travel and the flush valve *656* has a shorter travel. The flush valve *156* permits a larger volume

of water to flow through the discharge opening *159*. The flush valve *656* permits small volume of water flow through the discharge opening *659*. Alternatively, the flush valve *656* can have a similar structure as described in FIG. 1A. However, the flush valve *656* has a smaller float chamber at the bottom containing smaller amount of air inside the chamber. Hence the buoyancy to the flush valve *656* is smaller than the buoyancy for the flush valve *156*. Because of the less buoyancy for the flush valve *656*, the flush valve *656* will close the discharge opening *659* sooner than the flush valve *156* does. That is, the volume of water to be used to flush the toilet is smaller hence serves to the purpose of water saving.

[0126] Another alternative embodiment of dual flush toilet system is shown in FIG. 7. This dual flush toilet system *120* comprises two flush valve systems: *620* and *630* that are described in previous embodiment. In this embodiment the dual flush toilet system *120* employs the dual action flush lever *130* as shown in FIGS. 1E and 1F and fully described in previous embodiments. As shown in FIG. 7 the extension piece *132* of the flush lever *130* is provided to put through the inside the ring *152* affixed on the upper portion of the flush valve *156*. One end of the cable *134* is

connected to the far end of the lever arm *131*. The cable passes through the cable guide *136*, which is mounted on the top member *138*, is attached to the ring *752* affixed on the upper portion of the flush valve *622*. When a user pushes down the toilet flush handle *126*, the lever arm *131* and the extension piece *132* rotate counterclockwise and function as one unit. The extension piece *132* pushes the ring *152* both upwardly and rightwardly. As a result, the full flush valve *156* is lifted; the discharge opening *159* is open; and the water in the toilet water tank *122* drains through the discharge opening *159* into the toilet bowl to flush the waste. When the full flush valve *156* moves up, the cable *134* is slacked and has no effect on the flush valve *622*. When the water level drops to a predetermined level where the total downward force from the gravity of the flush valve *156*, and the suction force form the discharge opening *159* is greater than the buoyancy from the flush valve *156*, the flush valve *156* drops down and closes the discharge opening *159*. The refill system of the toilet system refills the water and the water level inside the toilet tank *122* return to its original level.

[0127] When a user pulls up the flush handle *126* of the flush lever *130*, the extension piece *132* rotates about the pivot

135 toward the lever arm *131*. The extension piece *132* has no effect on the flush valve *656*. Because the cable *134* is pulled downward by the lever arm *131*, the cable *134* pulls the ring *752* of the flush valve *656* upwardly and leftwardly. Under such action, the flush valve *656* is lifted up and the discharge opening *659* is open. The water from the toilet tank drops through the discharge opening *659* into the toilet bowl to flush the waste. As the water level drops, the buoyancy from the chamber of the flush valve 656 becomes smaller. The partial flush valve *656* moves downward to close the discharge opening *759*. Since the size of the chamber at the bottom of the partial valve *656* is smaller than that of the full flush valve *156*, the partial flush valve *656* closes the discharge opening *759* sooner than the full flush valve *156* does. As a result, a smaller volume of water is used to flush the toilet.

[0128] Another alternative embodiment of dual flush toilet system *820* is illustrated in FIGS. 8A and 8B. The dual flush toilet system *820* comprises a flush valve *156*, an engaging member *158*, a spud *146*, a travel top member *138*, a second limit device *142*, and two flexible cables *842* and *862*. These elements have been described previously and perform the same functions in this embodiment.

[0129] In this embodiment, a manual flush control system *825* is mounted on a toilet tank cover *822* which is generally placed on top of the toilet water tank *122* and covers the top opening of the toilet water tank *122*. The toilet tank cover *822* has a recess *824* located in the middle portion. There is a housing *826* mounted on the bottom of the recess *824* by two screws *827* to secure the flanges of the housing *825* on the bottom of the recess *824*. On the bottom of the recess *824* there are two through holes: *833* and *853*. A first push rod *830* has a flat head on the top and a straight body with a hole to be used to attach to one end of a first flexible means *842*. The first push rod *830* also has a flange *834* is located in the meddle portion of its body. A spring *836* is provided to set one end against the bottom of the flange *834* and the other end against the bottom of the recess *824* around the hole *833* so that the body portion of the first push rod *830* goes inside the spring coils from the top and slidably passes the hole *833* with the bottom end above the top member *138*. The first flexible means *842* can transfer tensional force but cannot transfer compression force because it slacks when a compressing force applies to it. One end of the first flexible means *842* is attached to the top of the ring

152 and the other end attached to the lower end of the first push rod *830* through two cable guides *838* and *840* which are attached on the bottom of the tank cover *822*.

[0130] Also in the dual flush system *820* a second push rod *850* has a flat head on the top and a straight body with a hole to be used to attach to one end of a second flexible means *862*. The partial flush push rod *850* also has a flange *854* mounted in the meddle portion of its body. A spring *856* is provided to set one end against the bottom of the flange *854* and the other end against the bottom of the recess *824* around the hole *853* so that the body portion of the full flush rod *850* goes slidably through the spring coil from the top and slidably passes the hole *853* with the bottom end seating on the top member *138*. The second flexible means *862* is a flexible means that can transfer tension force but cannot transfer compression force because it slacks when a compression force is applied to it. One end of the second cable *862* is connected to the top of the ring *152* and the other end attached to the lower end of the second push rod through the two cable guides *858* and *860* which are attached on the bottom of the tank cover *822*.

[0131] Still referring to FIG. 8B the cable guides *838* and *840* are

mounted on the bottom surface of the toilet tank cover *822*, facing the top surface of the water in the water tank *122*. The two cable guides *838* and *840* are aligned on the left in line with the center of the full flush rod *830*. Cable guide *838* is on the left of the flush valve *156* so that the first flexible means *842* is aligned leftwardly and upwardly from the top of the ring *152* to the cable guide *838*.

[0132] Similarly, cable guides *858* and *860* are mounted on the bottom surface of the toilet tank cover *822*, facing the top surface of the water in the water tank *122*. The two cable guides *858* and *860* are aligned on the right in line with the center of the partial flush rod *850*. Cable guide *858* is on the right of the flush valve *156* so that the flexible means *862* is aligned rightwardly and upwardly from the top of the ring *152* to the cable guide *858*.

[0133] A user can push either the first push rod *830* or the second push rod *850* to flush the toilet. As illustrated in FIGS. 8A and 1B, when the first push rod *830* is pushed and released, it moves downward. The flange *834* on the first push rod *830* presses the spring *836* downward. Because the lower end of the spring *836* is seated against the top surface of the bottom of the toilet tank cover *822*, the spring *836* is compressed. As the lower portion of the first

push rod *830* moves downward, the lower end of the first push rod *830* pushes the upper end of the first flexible means *842* downward. The cable guides *838* and *840* are mounted on the left side of the bottom of the toilet tank cover *822*. They are used to connect the flush valve *156* and the first push rod *830*. When the first push rod is pushed downward, the first flexible means *842* pulls the flush valve *156* upwardly and rotates about a vertical axis clockwise. The engaging protrusion *160* is engaged with the left branch *162L* and *164L* of the V-shaped groove *166* of the engaging member *158*. The flush valve *156* is lifted and the top end of the flush valve *156* moves up until it stops against the first limit device *141*. When the user releases the first push rod *830*, the spring *836* returns it to its home position. Because the spring returns to its home position, the first push rod *830* also returns to its initial home position. The second flexible means *862* is slacked so it cannot apply any force on the flush valve *156*. When the first flush valve *156* is in the full flush operation, it does not have any interference with either the second push rod *850* or the second flexible means *862*. Since the flush valve *156* is in a full open position, a large volume of water is discharged through the discharge opening *159*. As

the water level inside the toilet water tank *122* lowers, the buoyancy of the chamber of the flush valve *156* drops accordingly. When the gravity of the flush valve *156* is greater than its buoyancy the flush valve *156* drops downward and closes the discharge opening *159*. During the closing process, the flush valve *156* is guided by the engaging protrusion *160* in the left branch *162L* and *164L* of the V-shaped grove *166* so that the engaging protrusion *160* moves downwardly along the left branch *164L* and *162L* of the V-shaped groove *166* and rotates counterclockwise about a vertical axis. At the end of the process the flush valve *156* seats at the vertex *168* without interference with the closing of the discharge opening *159*. At this point, the cables *842* and *862* return to their initial positions with no tension but slightly slacked. When the water level in the toilet water tank *122* drops the refill valve (not shown) is activated and the refill pipe *128* starts to fill the water in the toilet water tank *122* until the water level reaches at the predetermined level. The full flushing operation is complete.

[0134] The partial flush operation is similar to the full flush operation described in previous embodiment. Still referring to FIGS. 8A and 8B, when the second push rod *850* is pushed

and released, it moves downward. The flange *854* on the second push rod *850* presses the spring *856* downward. Because the lower end of the spring *856* seats against the top surface of the bottom of the toilet tank covers *822*, the spring *856* is compressed. As the lower portion of the second push rod *850* moves downward, the lower end of the second push rod *850* pushes the upper end of the second flexible means *862* downward. The cable guides *858* and *850* are mounted on the right side of the bottom of the toilet tank cover *822*. They are employed to connect the flush valve *156* and the second push rod *850*. When the second push rod *850* is pushed downward, the cable *862* pulls the flush valve *156* upwardly and rotates about a vertical axis counterclockwise. The engaging protrusion *160* is engaged with the right branch *162R* and *164R* of the V-shaped groove *166*. The flush valve *156* is lifted and the top end of the flush valve *156* moves up and stops when it meets the second limit device *142*. The spring *856* returns to its home position after the user releases the flush rod *850*. Because the spring *856* returns to its home position, the second push rod *850* also returns to its initial home position. The first flexible means *84 2* is slacked so it cannot apply any force on the flush valve *156*. When the first

flush valve *156* is in the full flush operation, it does not have any interference with either the first push rod *830* or the first flexible means *842*. Since the flush valve *156* is in a partial flushing position, a smaller volume of water is discharged through the discharge opening *159*. As the water level inside the toilet water tank *122* drops, the buoyancy of the chamber of the flush valve *156* drops accordingly. When the gravity of the flush valve *156* is greater than its buoyancy, the flush valve *156* downward and closes the discharge opening *159*. During the closing process, the flush valve *156* is guided by the engaging protrusion *160* in the right branch *162R* and *164R* of the V-shaped grove *166* so that the engaging protrusion *160* moves downwardly along the right branch *164R* and *162R* of the V-shaped groove *166* and rotates clockwise about a vertical axis. At the end of the process the flush valve *156* seats at the vertex *168* without interference with the closing of the discharge opening *159*. At this point, the cables *842* and *862* return to their initial positions with no tension but slightly slacked. When the water level in the toilet water tank *122* drops the refill valve (not shown) is activated and the refill pipe *128* starts to fill water in the toilet water tank *122* until the water level reaches at predetermined

level. The partial flushing operation is complete. It has been noted that in order for the dual flush valve to accommodate different types of water tanks, the vertical position of the second limit device *142* can be adjusted so the optimal volume of water can be maintained regardless of the size of the toilet tank. Also, the load devices discussed previously can also be applied to this embodiment.

[0135] Another alternative embodiment of the top mounted dual flush device *870* is shown in FIG 8C. Device *870* comprises a flush rod *871*, a pivot *869*, and a spring *874*. There is an opening *876* on the bottom of the recess of the toilet tank cover *822*. The flush rod *871* has straight body in the middle pivotally connected to the pivot *869* so that the flush rod *871* can rotate about a primarily horizontal axis of the pivot *869*. The flush road *871* has an initial vertical position with its upper end above the top surface of the toilet tank cover *822* and the lower end below the bottom surface of the toilet tank cover *822*. The spring *874* is horizontally placed on the bottom of the recess *824*. One end of the spring *874* is connected to an unmoving surface and the other end connected to the flush rod *871* below the pivot *869*. The upper end of the first flexible means *842* is connected through the cable guide *838* to the lower end *872*

of the flush rod *871* primarily horizontally. The upper end of the second flexible means *862* is connected through the cable guide *858* to the lower end *872* of the flush rod *871* primarily horizontally.

[0136] Pulling the flush rod *871* leftward or rightward and then release it can perform a full flush operation or a partial flush operation. When the user releases the flush rod *871*, it returns to its initial position because the spring *874* restores to its original length after stretched or compressed. If a user pulls the upper end of the flush rod *871* leftward to position *871A* and then release it, the lower end *872* of the flush valve moves rightward to position *872A* because the flush rod rotates around the pivot *869*. The first flexible means *842*, connected to the lower end *872* of the flush rod *871*, also moves to the position *872A*. As a result of this movement, the first flexible means *842* pulls the flush valve *156* upwardly and rotates it clockwise simultaneously. The flush valve *156* is open and the water in the toilet water tank *122* discharges through the discharge opening *159* into the toilet bowl to flush the waste. The detailed full flush operation process is fully described in previous embodiments. Once the flush valve *156* is activated and moves upward, both cables *842* and *862* are

slacked so they do not apply any force on the flush valve *156*. When the flush valve *156* retunes to its initial position, the cables *842* and *862* are slightly slacked with no tensions so that the cables *842* and *862* does not affect the closing of the flange of the discharge opening *159* but with a little pulling from the flush rod *871* they will transfer tension to operate the flush valve *156*.

[0137] If the user pulls the upper end of the flush rod *871* rightward to position *871B* and then releases it, the lower end *872* of the flush valve moves leftward to position *872B* because the flush rod rotates around the pivot *869*. The second flexible means *862* connected to the lower end *872* of the flush rod *871* also moves to the position *872B*. As a result of this movement, the second flexible means *862* pulls the flush valve *156* upwardly and rotates counterclockwise. The flush valve *156* is open and the water in the toilet water tank *122* discharges through the discharge opening *159* into the toilet bowl to flush the waste. The detailed partial flush operation process is described fully in previous embodiments. Once the flush valve *156* is activated and moves upward, both cables *842* and *862* are slacked so they do not apply any force on the flush valve *156*. When the flush valve *156* retunes to its initial position, the cables

842 and *862* are slightly slacked with no tensions so that the cables *842* and *862* does not affect the closing of the flange of the discharge opening *159* but with a little pulling from the flush rod *871* they will transfer tension to operate the flush valve *156*.

[0138] Yet another alternative embodiment for the top mounted flush operation device *880* is shown in FIG. 8D. Instead of using a flush rod to operate the flush valve, device *880* employs a push pad *881* and two springs *884* and *885* to accomplish the dual flush operations. The push pad has a T-shaped member with a flat plate on the top and a straight body underneath upwardly connected to the middle of the bottom surface of the flat plate. The lower end *872* of the push pad *881* has the same structure and performs the same functions as the device *870* described in the previous embodiment. The top surface of the flat top of the push pad *881* is generally parallel to the top surface of the toilet tank cover *822*. The lower end of the spring *884* is secured on the left of the bottom of the recess *824* and the upper end of the spring *884* is demountably connected to the left of the bottom surface of the flat top of the push pad *881*. Similarly, the lower end of the spring *885* is secured on the right of the bottom of the recess *824*

and the upper end of the spring *885* is demountably connected to the right of the bottom surface of the flat top of the push pad *881*. When the push pad *881* is not in operation, both springs *884* and *885* are generally in neutral position with minimum support of the weight of the push pad *881*. In the middle portion of the push pad *881* the pivot *869* is employed to pivotally connect the body of the push pad. The front wall and the back wall of the recess *824* support both ends of the pivot so that the push pad *881* can rotate about a primarily horizontal axis of the pivot *869*. When a user pushes the left side *881A* of the push pad *881* and then releases it, the push pad *881* rotates counterclockwise about the pivot *869* so the lower end *882* moves to *872A*. As described in previous embodiment of the dual flush toilet system *820*, the lower end *872* pulls the first flexible means *842* to lift the flush valve *156* to perform a full flush operation. Similarly, when a user pushes the right side *881B* of the push pad *881* and then releases it, the push pad *881* rotates clockwise about the pivot *869* so the lower end *882* moves to *872B*. Also as described in previous embodiment of the dual flush toilet system *820*, the lower end *872* pulls the second flexible means *862* to lift the flush valve *156* to perform a partial

flush operation.

[0139] FIGS. 9A, 9B, 9C, 9D, and 10 show another alternative embodiment of the dual flush toilet system *920*. An electrical control system *1020* as shown in FIG. 10 controls this dual flush toilet system *920*.

[0140] Referring to FIGS. 9A and 9B, the dual flush toilet system *920* comprises a toilet tank cover *822* with a recess *824* for covering the opening of the toilet water tank *122*, a first button *928* for activating a full flush operation, a second button *932* for activating a partial flush operation, a manual flush handle *930* for flushing the toilet when there is no electrical voltage source available, a spring *960* for returning the flush valve *970* to its closing position after discharging the water from the toilet water tank *122*, an flush valve guide *964* for guiding the flush valve *970* to move slidably along the vertical direction of the flush valve guide *962*, a cover plate *946*, a flush valve *970* for controlling the water flow from the toilet water tank *122* into the toilet bowl (not shown), an electrical-mechanical actuating means *942* for opening or closing the flush valve *970*, a discharge opening *982* for allowing the water inside the toilet tank to discharge into the toilet bowl, and a D.C. voltage source *938* for providing electrical power to oper-

ate and control the actuating means *942*.

[0141] The toilet cover *822* is the same as what is described in the embodiment of the dual flush toilet system *820*. There are three holes on the top surface of the recess *824* as illustrated in FIG. 9B: the one on the left is for accessing the first button *928*, the one on the right is for accessing the second button *932*, and the one in the middle is for accessing the emergency flush handle *930*. The first button *928* is coupled with a first switch *1028* employed to activate a full flush operation. When a user pushes the first button *928* and releases it, the first switch *1028* is in an "ON" position. The toilet system performs a full flush operation. Similarly, the second button *932* is coupled with a second switch *1032* employed to activate the second switch *1032*. When a user pushes the second button *932* and releases it, the second switch *1032* is in an "ON" position and the toilet system performs a partial flush operation. The control system *1020* is designed to perform the function that it does not require a user to push and hold the first button *928* or the second button *932*. The system is designed in such a way that the operations of either a full flush operation or a partial flush operation will not be affected by the duration of a user's pushing and holding

of the buttons. In other words, the system is insensitive to the variations of users' patterns of pushing or holding these buttons. This insensitivity of the performance of the first button *928* and the second button *932* makes this embodiment of the dual toilet flush system function consistent and achieve the water saving objective.

[0142] The manual flush handle *930* can be a cable, a cord, or a rod with a ring on the upper end above the top surface of the housing *826* slidably going down through the hole and with the lower end connected to the top plate *946* for pulling up the flush valve *970* when there is no electricity available to operate the system. In this case, this dual flush toilet system *920* is still functional and has no interruptions to the use of the toilet. The top plate *946* is an annular plate with a cylindrical body approximately in the middle of the bottom side as shown in FIG 9B. The circumference of the inner hole of the top plate *946* is slidably engaged with the outer circumferential surface of the upper valve guide *962* so that the top plate *946* can slidably move upwardly and downwardly along the vertical axis of the valve guide *962*. The outer cylindrical surface of the top plate *946* is screwably screwed into the threaded inner hole of the flush valve *970* so these two parts are as-

sembled as one to move together. The top surface of the outer circumference of the top plate *946* is connected to the actuating means *942* which can drive the top plate *946* and the flush valve *970* upwardly and downwardly to control the flush operations of the dual flush toilet system *920*.

[0143] The bottom of the valve guide *962* is connected to the base of the water discharge opening *982*. Plurality of radial ribs *986*, which are radially spaced on the draining passage *162*, support the valve guide *962* but allow the water to flow through the spaces between these ribs *986* down to the discharge opening *982*. The top end of the valve guide *962* is engaged in a rod *929*, which is fixedly secured on the inner surface of the housing *826* and slidably engaged with the valve guide *962*.

[0144] There are pluralities of radially horizontally spaced annular protrusions *966* shown in FIG 9D. They are located in the lower portion of the valve guide *962* as shown in FIG. 9A. The outer circumferences of these protrusions *966* are cylindrical and are slidably engaged with the inner wall of the flush valve *970*. The protrusions *966* are employed to reduce the frictions between theses protrusions *964* and the cylindrical surface of the flush valve *970* when the

flush valve *970* moves upwardly and downwardly in flushing operations.

[0145] The flush valve *970* has a tubular body. At the lower end the flush valve *970* there is a flange *979* that covers and seals against the water discharge opening *982*. In the upper portion of the flush valve *970* there is at least one but preferably four overflow openings *974* cut through the wall of the flush valve *970*, permitting the water from the toilet water tank *122* to flow through these openings *974* into the toilet bowl (not shown) in case the water inlet valve cannot be shut off. On the outer wall of the upper portion of the flush valve *970* there is a circular spring base *976* as shown in FIG. 9B. The spring base *976* has a flat upper surface against the lower end of the spring *960*. The top end of the flush valve *970* is screwably connected to the top plate *946* so the actuating means *942* can drive the top plate *946* and the flush valve *970* upwardly and downwardly to open and close the water discharge opening *982*.

[0146] The spring *960* is employed for pressing the flush valve *970* downward to close the flush valve *970* when a flush operation is complete and for providing additional downward force for the flush valve *970* to seal the water discharge opening *982*. The lower end of the spring *960* is sl-

idably inserted into the upper portion of the flush valve *970* until the bottom of the spring *960* rests against the top of the spring base *976* and the upper end against the bottom surface of the toilet tank cover *822*. When the flush valve *970* is in a close position, the spring *960* is compressed because the length of the spring 960 under neutral condition is longer than the distance between the top surface of the spring base *972* and the bottom surface of the toilet tank cover *822*, hence it applies a downward force on the flush valve *970* so the bottom flange *979* of the flush valve *970* seats on the flange of the discharge opening *982* and seals the opening without leaking water from the toilet water tank *122*.

[0147] The actuating means*942* is mounted inside the housing *826* for opening and closing the flush valve *970*. The actuating means *942* can be an electrical motor or an electric-magnetic driving device such as a solenoid used to activate the flush valve *970*. The actuating means *942* is employed to lift the flush valve *970* upwardly to open the discharge opening or push the flush valve *970* downwardly to return to its original closing position. The actuating means *942* is controlled by the control system *1020* which will be described later. The D.C. voltage source *938* is pro-

vided for supplying power to the dual flush toilet system *920*.

[0148] Drawings in FIGS 9B and 9C illustrate the operations for the electrical controlled dual flush toilet system *920*. To operate this toilet system, a user can push either the first button *928* or the second button *932*. When the first button *928* is pushed and released, as shown in FIG. 9C the actuating means *942* is activated. The actuating means *942* lifts the top plate *946* and the flush valve *970* up and holds for certain amount of time to permit the water inside the toilet water tank *122* to flow into the toilet bowl through the discharge opening *984*. When the flush valve *970* is lifted up, the spring base *976* is also lifted up so the spring *972* is compressed. When the actuating means releases the flush valve *970*, the compressed spring *960* applies a downward force on the base plate *972* to force the flush valve *970* downward to close the water discharge opening *982*. It is noted that even without the spring *972*, the flush valve *970* is still able to function properly to close the discharge opening *982* by means of its own weight to pull the flush valve *970* down.

[0149] The partial flush operation is similar to the full flush operation described above. The only difference is that the du-

ration for the flush valve to stay in the open position is shorter than the full flush cycle. As a result, the volume of the water flowing from the toilet water tank *122* into the toilet bowl is less than the volume of water from a full flush operation.

[0150] Now referring FIG. 10 the flush control system *1020* controls the flush process of the dual flush toilet system *920*. The flush control system *1020* comprises a transistor *1050* for providing control to the actuating means *942*, and a timing device *1084*, which is presented inside the phantom-lined block, for controlling the time of the flush of the dual flush toilet system *920*. The timing device *1084* comprises a first switch *1028* for activating on a full flush operation, a second switch *1032* for activating a partial flush operation, a first variable resistor *1060* and a second variable resistor *1062* for adjusting the toilet flushing time, a third switch *1066* for changing the resistance of the system for performing a partial flush operation, a fourth switch *1080* for controlling the timing of the first switch *1028* and the second switch *1032*, a third resistor *1082* for delaying the switching action of the switch *1080*, and a capacitor *1044* for charging or discharging electricity to control the timing of the flushing.

[0151] As shown in FIG. 10, the transistor *1050* has an emitter *1054*, a first base *1052*, and a second base *1056*. For the timing device *1084*, the first switch *1028* is connected between the negative terminal of the D.C. voltage source *938* and the negative terminal of the fourth switch *1080*. The second switch *1032* is connected to the negative terminal of the D.C. voltage source *938* and the negative terminal of the fourth switch *1080*. The capacitor *1044* is connected between the negative terminal of the D.C. voltage source *938* and the negative terminal of the first variable resistor *1060*. The fourth switch *1080* has its positive terminal connected to the negative terminal of the first variable resistor *1060* and is controlled by the actuating means*942*. The second variable resistor *1062* is connected to the positive terminal of the third switch *1066* and the second base *1056* of the transistor *1050*. The first variable resistor *1060* has its positive terminal connected to the second base *1056* of the transistor *1050*. The third switch *1066*, which is connected to the positive terminal of the capacitor *1044* and is normally in open position, is coupled with the second switch *1032* to control the "ON" or "OFF" position of the second variable resistor *1062*. The actuating means *942* is connected between the negative terminal of the D.C. volt-

age source *938* and the first base *1052* of the transistor *1050*. The positive terminals of resistors *1060* and *1062* are connected to the second base *1056* of the resistor *1050*. The emitter *1054* is connected to the positive terminal of the voltage source *938*.

[0152] When a user pushes the full flush button *928* and releases it, the first push switch *1028* is turned on. The electrical energy stored in the capacitor *1044* is discharged through the short loop via the switch *1028*. When the user releases the button *928*, the first switch *1028* is tuned off. The capacitor *1044* starts to charge. As a result, a voltage is provided to the actuating means *942*. The actuating means *942* then opens the flush valve *970*. The first variable resistor *1060* controls the length of the charging of the capacitor *1044*. When the capacitor *1044* is fully charged, there is no current flowing through the second base *1056*. Hence the current from the first base *1052* is also cut off. As a result, the actuating means *942* is turned off. The flush valve *970* moves downward and closes the discharge opening *982*. The first variable resistor *1060* controls the length of the electricity charging to the capacitor *1044*. Since the resistance of the first variable resistor *1060* can be adjusted, the duration of the flushing of the dual flush

toilet changes accordingly. That process completes a full flush operation. It is noticed that the capacitor *1044* can also be adjustable for controlling the length of the time to flush the dual flush toilet system *920*.

[0153] The partial flush operation is similar to the full flush operation. The only difference is that the flushing length is shorter than a full flushing. The third switch *1066* is employed to perform the task. When the second switch *1032* is turned on, it also activates the third switch *1066*, making the first variable resistor *1060* and the second variable resistor *1062* in a parallel connection. For two parallel-connected resistors *1060* and *1062*, their combined resulting resistance is smaller than either the first variable resistor *1060* or the second variable resistor *1062*. A smaller resistance will result in a faster charge for the capacitor *1044*. That shorter charging time of the capacitor *1044* completes a partial flush operation.

[0154] The first variable resistor *1060* or the second variable resistor *1062* can be independently adjusted to accommodate to variety of timing to suit for different toilet tanks for selectively performing full flush operations or partial flush operations with optimal volume of water.

[0155] The above embodiment is only one of the embodiments to

perform the same function of dual flushing. The resistor in this embodiment is a PNP resistor. Similarly an NPN resistor can also be used in this application. The same control system *1020* can also be employed to control the dual flush operations for a hemisphere-shaped flapper valve *1030* shown in FIG. 11A, in which the flapper valve with the overflow pipe generally securely fixed on the bottom of the toilet tank. With a linking mechanism to link the actuating means *942* to the flapper valve *1030*. The operation of a full flush operation or a partial flush operation is the same as the one described in previous paragraphs.

[0156] Above described embodiments are primarily for the plunger-shaped flush valve with combined overflow a pipe and a float chamber. Still, there is another type of flapper flush valve in which the overflow pipe is separated from the flush valve. In the flapper flush valve the overflow pipe is a separate unit and does not move with the valve body upwardly or downwardly; it is secured generally on the discharge opening. The preferred embodiment of this invention is described in FIGS. 11A through 11L. In this embodiment the dual flush toilet system *1120* has a flapper flush valve *1130* for providing a full flush operation or a partial flush operation. The dual flush toilet system *1120*

comprises an overflow pipe *1126* for permitting the water in the toilet water tank *122* to flow though a discharge opening *1140* into the toilet bowl to prevent the excessive water spill over the toilet water tank *122* and for holding and supporting a flapper valve *1130* to open and close the discharge opening *1140* as a user to activate the flush valve *1130*.

[0157] The overflow pipe *1126* is a thin-walled pipe with an elongated body standing upright with the bottom end connected to the discharge opening *1140* and the top end rising above the water level when the toilet water tank *122* is fully filled. One end of the refill tube *140* is receivablly inserted into the top end of the overflow pipe to refill the water in the toilet bowl after the completion of the flush. At the top of the overflow pipe *1126* there is a support member *1132* which is cantileverally hung from the overflow pipe extending outwardly over the flapper valve *1130*. At the far end of the support member *1132* there is a guide *1134* permitting a first flexible means *1122* to pass through the eye of the guide *1134*. One end of the first flexible means *1122* is attached to the first eyelet *1123* on the top left of the flapper valve *1130* and then passes through the guide *1134* to connect to the lever arm *131* of

the flush lever *130*. A second flexible means *1124* is employed for activating the partial flush operation. One end of the second flexible means *1124* is connected to a second eyelet *1125* on the top right of the flapper valve *1130* and the other end is connected to the extension piece *132* of the flush lever *130*.

[0158] The flapper valve *1130* is a thin-walled hemisphere-shaped means with a chamber on the lower portion for opening and closing the discharge opening *1140* and controlling the timing for a full flush operation or a partial flush operation. On the top middle portion of the flapper valve *1130* there is a primarily horizontal axis *1172* as shown in FIGS. 11A and 11B. The axis *1172* is attached to the top surface of the flapper valve *1130*. The outward portions of both ends of the axis*1172* are pivotally engaged in the supports near the far end of the flapper valve arm *1128* so the flapper valve *1130* can pivotally rotate about the horizontal axis*1172* as shown in FIGS. 11C and 11D. When the first flexible means *1122* lifts the flapper valve *1130* upward, the flapper arm *1128* rotates about a pivot *1129* on the overflow pipe *1126*. The flapper valve *1130* not only moves upward but also rotates clockwise about the axis*1172* as shown in FIG. 11C. When the second

flexible means *1124* lifts the flapper valve *1130* upward, the flapper arm *1128* rotates about a pivot *1129* on the overflow pipe *1126*. The flapper valve *1130* not only moves upward but also rotates counterclockwise about the axis *1172* as shown in FIG. 11D.

[0159] On the flapper valve *1130* there is at least one hole *1157* as shown in FIGS. 11F and 11G located on the chamber for controlling the time for the flapper valve *1130* to stay in open position. The flapper valve *1130* with two holes is also shown in FIG. 11E. All these holes are cut through the wall of the flapper valve *1130* so that the water or the air can enter the chamber or escape from the chamber of the flapper valve *1130*. The holes can have different shapes and sizes. As shown in FIG. 11E, two holes *1150* and *1152* are located on the lower portion of the flapper valve *1130*. The hole *1150* is on the right side of the flapper valve *1130* and the hole *1152* is on the left side of the flapper valve *1130*. When the flapper valve *1130* is in the closing position, the hole *1150* is located in a higher elevation than the hole *1152*. As shown in FIG. 11F the flapper valve *1130* has one hole with a narrow middle portion *1154* and relatively wider opening at both ends *1152* and *1150*. As a result, they become one hole because there is only one closed

loop on the surface of the flapper valve *1130*. FIG. 11G shows one hole *1157* with narrower left portion on the flapper valve *1130*.

[0160] As shown in FIG. 11D, when the flapper valve *1130* is pulled up by the second flexible means *1124*, the flapper valve *1130* moves upwardly with the arm *1128* and rotates counterclockwise about the horizontal axis *1172*. As shown in FIG.11C when the flapper valve *1130* is pulled up by the first flexible means *1122*, the flapper valve *1130*, moves upwardly with the arm *1128* and rotates clockwise about the axis *1172*.

[0161] There are two shoulders: *1173A* and *1173B*, as shown in FIG. 11K, located at the far end of the support *1174* of the arm *1128* to prevent the axis *1172* from rotating beyond a predetermined angle. The maximum counterclockwise rotation is indicated in "a" degrees and the maximum clockwise rotation is indicated in "b" degrees as shown in FIG. 11K. As shown in FIG. 11D when the flapper valve *1130* is activated, the flapper valve *1130* will move up as the arm *1128* is pulled up. The flapper valve *1130* rotates about the axis *1172* counterclockwise. The rotation about the axis *1172* is constrained by the stop shoulder *1173A* when one side of the rotation stop bar *1176* contacts the stop sur-

face of the shoulder *1173A*. In this case the maximum angle is "a". The position of the stop shoulder *1173A* can be changed so the axis *1172* can rotate more or less as the toilet system requires accommodating the shape and the depth of the toilet water tank *122*.

[0162] When the first flexible means *1122* is activated, the flapper valve *1130* is lifted upward and rotates clockwise about the horizontal axis *1172*. The rotation stop bar *1176* is constrained by the stop shoulder *1173B*. The maximum rotation angle is "b" as shown in FIG. 11K. The initial position for the shoulders *1173A* and *1173B* can be adjusted by rotating the axis *1172*.

[0163] The flapper valve *1130* can control different flush operations by lifting either the first flexible means *1122* or the second flexible means *1124*. When the flap valve *1130* is in a close position as shown in FIGS. 11A and 11B, the bottom of the flapper valve *1130* is exposed to the air. Only a small amount of water *1153* below the lower edge of the hole *1152*, as shown in FIG. 11H, remains inside the bottom of the flapper valve *1130*.

[0164] When the flapper valve *1130* seats on the discharge opening *1140* where the bottom surface of its flange is against the top surface of the discharge opening *1140*. The lower

portion of the flapper valve is exposed to the air. The water pressure from the toilet water tank *122* presses the flapper valve *1130* against the discharge opening *1140*. When a user pulls up the flush lever *130* up, the lever arm *131* rotates clockwise to pull the first flexible means *1122* up through the cable guide *1134*. Consequently, the flapper valve *1130* moves upwardly and rotates clockwise about the axis *1172* as shown in FIG. 11C. The arm *1128* also moves up with the flapper valve *1130*. The discharge opening *1140* is open and the water from the toilet tank is drained to the toilet bowl to flush the waste. In this situation, because of the air trapped inside the chamber of the flapper valve *1130*, the buoyancy from the air is greater than the gravities of the flapper valve *1130* and the arm *1128*, the flapper valve *1130* stays in the open position at which the hole *1152* is located above the hole *1150* as shown in FIG. 11C. Once the flapper valve *1130* is in the open position, the flapper valve *1130* is submerged in the water. Under the differences of the hydraulic pressure between the hole *1150* and the hole *1152*, the air inside the flapper valve *1130* escapes the chamber through the hole *1152* and the water from the tank enters the chamber of the flapper valve *1130* through the hole *1150* as shown in

FIG. 11I. As more air escapes from the hole *1152* and more water enters the chamber of the flapper flush valve *1130* through the hole *1150*, the buoyancy of the flapper valve *1130* becomes smaller. As shown in FIG. 11I when the volume of the water inside the chamber of the flapper valve *1130* exceeds the critical volume *1155*, at which the buoyancy of the flapper valve is equal to weight of the flapper valve *1130* and the arm *1128*, the flapper valve *1130* moves downward and closes the discharge opening *1140*. This cycle completes a partial flush operation.

[0165] When a user pushes down the flush handle *126*, the extension piece *132* pulls up the second flexible means *1124* as shown in FIGS. 11B and 11D. The flapper valve *1130* moves upwardly and rotates counterclockwise about the axis *1172* until it is stopped by the shoulder *1173A* as shown in FIG. 11D. It is similar to the partial flush operation described previously. The vertical distance H2 between the hole *1150* and the hole *1152* when the flush valve *1130* rotates counterclockwise as shown in FIG. 11J is greater than the vertical distance H1 between the hole *1150* and the hole *1152* when the flush valve *1130* rotates clockwise as illustrated in FIG. 11I. The larger hole *1150* is vertically at a higher elevation than the smaller hole *1152*. The

speed of the water entering into the chamber inside the flapper valve *1130* is slower. Hence it takes longer for the water to enter into the chamber of the flapper valve *1130* and to reach the critical volume of water *1155* for gaining enough downward force. As a result, the flapper valve *1130* moves downward and closes the discharge opening *1140*. This process competes a full flush operation.

[0166] The duration of flushing the toilet system is determined by the time the flapper valve staying in the open position controlled by the speed of the water entering the chamber of the flapper valve *1130* through the hole *1150*. This can be determined by the relative vertical distance between the hole *1150* and the hole *1152* under the hydraulic pressure and the relative sizes of the hole *1150* and the hole *1152*. Generally, the larger of the vertical distance between these two holes, the faster the water enters the chamber of the flapper valve *1130*. Because the viscosity of water is greater than the viscosity of the air, under normal temperature and pressure of the toilet working condition, the water escapes from the chamber of the flapper valve *1130* at a lower speed than the air does from the same hole. As a result, reversing the positions of these two holes changes the speed of the water entering the chamber of

the flapper valve *1130*. Changing the size of the hole *1150* and the size of the hole *1152* also change the speed of the water entering the chamber of the flapper valve *1130*. As shown in FIG. 11G the size of the holes can be adjusted by adjusting a covering member *1159* that is adjustable and is attached to the flapper valve *1130* outer surface near the hole opening by a connecting member *1171*. By rotating the covering member *1159* around the connecting member *1171* clockwise or counterclockwise, the area of the opening of the hole *1157* can be decreased or increased. The locations and sizes of the holes *1150* and *1152* can vary according to the requirements of the time to keep the flapper valve *1130* in open position.

[0167] The operation processes of the hemisphere-shaped dual flush toilet system *1120* are described as following steps: the first step is activating the flapper valve *1130* from the water tank *122* by pulling the first flexible means *1122* or the second flexible means *1124*. The second step is lifting the flapper valve *1130* upwardly and rotating about the horizontal axis in one direction. The third step is discharging the water from the water tank *122* through the discharge opening *1140* of the water tank *122* to flush the waste. The fourth step is decreasing buoyancy of the flap-

per valve *1130* by replacing the air inside the flapper valve *1130* with the water from the water tank *122*. The fifth step is moving the flapper valve *1130* downwardly and rotating it about the horizontal axis in opposite direction. The sixth step is seating the flange of the flapper valve *1130* on the discharge opening *1140*.

[0168] The electronic controlled dual flush toilet system *1020* shown in FIG. 10 can also be easily applied to the hemi-sphere-shaped flapper valve. The actuating means *942* can be attached to the flapper valve *1130* to open or close the discharge opening *1140*. The flushing time can be controlled in the same manner as using the control system *1020* described previously.

[0169] Other embodiments, features, and advantages of the present invention will be apparent to those skilled in the art from a consideration of the foregoing specifications as well as through practice of the invention and alternative embodiments and methods disclosed herein. Therefore, it should be emphasized that the specifications and examples are exemplary only, and the true scope and spirit of the invention is limited only by the following claims.

[0170] What is claimed is: